

Talk To Allah

Finding Comfort By Making Du'a To  
Him

Ayesha Syahira

## Appreciation

In the name of Allah SWT, the entirely Gracious, the especially Merciful.

All praises due to Allah alone for His love and guidance. Alhamdulillah ya Allah for Your great plan, I am able to write my second book. Thank You, Allah, for inspiring me every day in my life, and always allowing me to improve myself and share what I have learned.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my beloved husband. Azan Saufi. I once heard a saying that behind every great successful woman, there's a very understanding husband and I cannot deny that fact. I thank Allah for a husband like you. You make sure all my needs are well taken care of while I am occupied completing the manuscript day and night. Every time I feel like giving up, you remind me how far I have come and continuously cherish how my first book '*Being A Quran Tag Girl*' was a huge achievement and this too will be a great success. Thank you for always being my number one supporter and for cheering on me till the very end.

To my parents, there is not enough thank you to express how grateful I am to have both of you as my parents. I am so glad to be your daughter. Thank you for letting me discover my potential and push me to my

highest potential.

To my siblings, thank you for always supporting my cause, from the very beginning till where I am standing today. I cannot imagine not having you guys as my pillars of strength.

To my in-laws and all of family members, all your support and encouragement are well appreciated. Thank you.

Last but not least, to all my readers, my followers on my social media platform, and supporters, you all made this happen. BAQTG made it to the bestseller list for months because all of you, and I am determined to keep on writing and finished this second book as a thank you gift to you. I have found a beautiful love with Allah SWT and I hope my stories and journey inspire you to come

closer to Allah SWT.

*Ayesha Syahira*

Oppss! I almost forgot, to IMAN Publication and IMAN Shoppe; my second family, thank you for trusting me and believing in me for this project. I hope to continue to give the best and make you all proud.

Thank you everyone. I may have left out some names, but know that I am not alone in this journey. I am here today because of all your undeniable support, you are a part of this journey too!

I ask Allah to accept all our effort and deeds, raise our rank in His sight and cover our flaws in the eyes of others. May all that we do become sadaqah jariah and means for us all to enter Jannah.

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INTRODUCTION

## PART 1: TALKING TO ALLAH

# Why We No Longer Talk To Allah

Many years back before I fully embrace and practise the religion, I really had no idea what the true meaning of relying and obeying Allah SWT was. The concept of Islam that I had in mind was just to follow the rules. Either you do or not do what a Muslim is supposed to do. I learned about Tawheed when I was in primary school but in the end it was just another subject in school. I memorized the

content of the subject in order to pass yearly exams together with other subjects.

I knew Allah exists, but I did not feel His presence. It was probably because I was still young to understand the meaning of all these. But life became challenging and rough as you grow older and I was still figuring things out, thus Islam became a religion I followed blindly. Performing Solah (prayer), reciting the Quran, fasting, making du'a were things I performed and did occasionally only when others were doing it or whenever I was told to do so. It was difficult, tedious and sparked no joy. Hence, there were times when no one was seeing, I disregarded those actions, and lived as I wish.

Have you ever gone through something like this?  
Have you ever felt like it was so hard to practise the ibadah

like what others are doing? I am ashamed to tell you this, but I am sharing with you my story as a reminder, first and foremost to myself, and I hope as you go through this book, you would find some ibrah (learning points) from my sharing and thus help us all to become a better version of ourselves.

## **The Way We Understood Our Deen**

I was brought up in such a way where we followed blindly whatever the elders did. Though I did not know the reasons why I had to do all these ibadah in certain ways, there was no room for questions. That was exactly what I did. From as early as the age of seven, I learned, memorized and followed what others did. Things were easy when I was just a naive primary school girl, but as I grew up, a lot of things changed in my life too. For



example, my group of friends that I kept, the things I read or watched, conversations I had with people around me. All these slowly influenced me in my process of growing up.

As I reached my teenage years, I became rebellious. The 'Pendidikan Agama' (Islamic knowledge) classes I had twice a week were not enough to become the shield for me; to protect me. I abandoned my prayers and the time was spent on unbeneficial things – never on reciting the Quran and making du'a! Never. Probably once in a while I would attend school events like 'Solat Hajat' (praying event) and 'bacaan Yaasin' (Yaasin recital) but that was just it. I even went for tarawih in Ramadan, just to join in the hype of meeting my friends and gaining nothing from the moments spent in the mosque. Astaghfirullah...

When I was in college, I slowly tried to put some sense into learning my religion. It all started when my Accounting lecturer made the whole class read a blog written by a young blogger who shared his learning experiences in Jordan. Everytime he wrote a post, he would always guide his writing to Allah SWT. I read his writing, and once in a while I did feel "something" – a feeling of wanting to change to be better; but most of the time the feelings just stopped there – it became nothing more.

My Islamic subject lecturer, (I studied accounting, but Islamic subject was obligatory for all students) always conducted very good lectures during his sessions. I was slowly putting in puzzles in my mind about Islam. I somehow loved his approach in teaching. He elaborated his points more rather than just stating the obvious – halal

and haram. I love the knowledge I learned, but I must say developing them into practice was my biggest challenge. The pressure of being young and ‘you only live once’ trademark during teenage years really drowned me deep in sins and I just let myself sink in it- never really tried to swim out of it and save myself.

But that was me before the light of Islam came to me. I am an adult now; to be precise I am 30 years old as I am writing this book. I would not say that I have gone through enough experience that made me who I am today, but Alhamdulillah these phases in life have taught me great valuable lessons. I hit my rock bottom when I failed to graduate on time. To make it short; I started learning Islam bit by bit. I started learning Quran and shared my first experience with Quran in my first book titled “Being A Quran Tag Girl”. If you have not read it and you are

looking for ways to improve your relationship with the Quran, you might want to check out this book! And even though it is called “Being A Quran Tag Girl”, it is a book for everyone, even for guys, so do not hesitate to get it!

## **Is Allah In Our Heart And Soul?**

Well, back to my story. As I am typing right now, I am reminiscing those moments of why I did not feel the ‘lively’ feeling of Allah in my heart and soul like I do now. It is so much different. After all those years of memorising the pillars of faith, I finally understood the concept of those pillars... it is FAITH. It feels light on the tongue but to fully comprehend each pillar and carry it out as we should, it really takes a toll on us- spiritually.

Without proper explanation and learning, the main

point of these pillars would be lost on us. Hence, why many Muslims failed to fully understand the very essence of faith in Allah SWT. Faith is what builds your relationship with Allah. The fundamental quality of this religion of Allah SWT is having undoubtful trust towards Him. Whatever we do, it has to follow the guidelines from Allah SWT, and one is able to practice completely once he or she puts a firm belief in Him.

These were my challenges when I first came back to the religion. Not that I did not believe in the existence of Allah before, I did, but I was not thoroughly conscious about it. I learned about Allah, but I did not have any deep connection with Him. It all stayed as The One I fear and woefully in my fear towards Him, I never ran back to Allah to heal myself, but rather, I kept myself distant from Him because I thought I could get better on my own. At times, I

told myself, “I am still too young for ‘seriousness’ in religion matters, that ‘moment’ would come to me once I become older.” That thought we all once have in mind.

So why are we no longer making du’a to Allah?

Many years before I donned the hijab, I was always bombarded by the reminders that Allah accepted no ibadah from one who did not cover her aurah. I was in my teen days and many of my friends did not make it a practice to cover up. We were just teenagers who were in our phases of growing up, wanted to try new things and having fun was what we looked forward to. At that time, I thought that was already the best highlight of my life. We went against the norm (ermm, in a bad way), broke the rules, and *nauzubillah minzalik*, was truly not a good example because we had such unruly behavior. May Allah

forgive us and bless our parents for having such high patience in tolerating with us.

I did not cover, and did not have the intention to do so. I mean, look around. Almost all of my friends did not cover. Skinny jeans were the ‘in-thing’ during that time. How could I give up on that? Silly old me. I constantly missed my prayers, and sometimes in Ramadan, I purposely did not fast because I felt ashamed of doing ibadah to Allah just because I did not put on my hijab. The implication of one’s ibadah would not be accepted if she did not cover herself has been placed in my mind. I become more astray from Allah, till I reached a point that I felt that my life was destined to be a disobedient slave and there will be no chance I would change for the better because this was what Allah has set for me. I have sinned countlessly and I thought there was no way Allah would

forgive all my wrong doings so I might as well live the life that I wanted at that time.

I hated the idea of hijab at that time. I saw many people who covered themselves but still committing the harams – they smoked, backbit, committed zina. But the only thing the society focused on was only the hijab, as if, when one is putting a piece of cloth on her head, all the other problems would be solved, when actually it did not. Since I had this idea in my head, I kept on missing performing the ibadah. I was ashamed to ask from Allah because I felt that I was so ‘dirty’ and unworthy in His sight; let alone raising my hands and making du’a- I thought Allah would not even want to listen to it.

I continued living my life in a disruptive way. Some days I won, some days I lost. There were times my life was

great – like the time I scored well in exams and did perfectly well in school. I arrogantly thought in my mind that these were all due to my hard effort and because of that I achieved success. I hold on to my beliefs that my success was because of my own hard work and went to “lobby” my teachers, owing to the fact that my marks revolved around them. I depended on them for ‘A’s believing that was the main reason why I passed my exam with flying colors. No such humbleness or humility thinking that these were all from Allah.

When the stormy days hit me – like the time I lost my purse and a great amount of money, not to mention a friend that spread rumors about me- I believed it was karma for my bad behaviour. I used to see Allah only through His door of punishment. Thinking of He ‘punishes’ a lot really turned me off from being closer to

Him and I began distancing myself from learning even the simplest of Islamic knowledge because I did not want to be accountable on the day of judgement. So foolish of me thinking that I could tell Allah “I don’t know” on the Day of Judgment. Never once did I take the time to reflect that all these ‘bad’ situations that happened were actually tests from Allah SWT as reminders for me to turn to Him and be better.

## **Why Are We Lazy To Make Du’a?**

These were the reasons I no longer made du’a in my life back then. I was ego and demoralised. I guess many of you had these kinds of feelings too sometimes. These are two main reasons why people no longer make du’a to Allah.

1. Arrogance

2. Despair

In Islam, we are taught to always rely on Allah SWT even for the smallest things in life. We are commanded to ask from Allah constantly. These can only be achieved when we truly reflect that in this life, we have our Master, Allahu Ya Rabb, The Owner of All.

Only after understanding the concept and relationship of a slave and his Master can we reach the best level of submission towards Allah SWT. Such affairs can be sustained by seeking knowledge of the Quran and Sunnah. Only through it, we can humble ourselves and feel how tiny we are as His creations. There are gazillions of Allah's creations here in this world and many more in other worlds or perhaps even galaxies that our pairs of

eyes are not able to see. How can we be proud of ourselves when truly we are nothing without Allah?

My dearest readers, as you read through the words in this book, please say thank you to Allah for that pair of eyes that He has given you; because out of the many people in this world, you are one of those whom Allah does not test with any eyesight problem. Well, you might have some vision challenges, but I am sure you own a pair of spectacles that works perfectly fine for you, Alhamdulillah.

Imagine those whom Allah SWT tests with the ability to see. They are not capable of seeing the ones they love, are not able to read the Quran or books or see the greatness of Allah's creations. All they have is just deep faith in them to go through their life and learn to adapt to their disability. There are so many that we receive in this

life, so how can we be so proud thinking that all we have today is from our own self?

If you think that you are among those who are hopeless in making du'a because you have a huge amount of sins, I want you to know, no human being who walks on this earth is a saint and dies not committing any sin. Even the most pious person you can think of in this world sins. We all sin every day, but my dear friend, Allah is tirelessly forgiving us every single second as long as we repent to Him.

There is a saying that goes, "We all sin, and the best of sinners is the one who repents."

I want you to unlearn the concept that Allah does not accept our du'a because of the mountainous of sins we have. As you read through the next chapter, I hope you

feel the greatness of Allah and you feel the need to humble yourself to Him.

And for those who lost their hopes in making du'a, I wish you will find the courage to start asking from Him and may you find your beautiful path in returning to Him.

O' Allah indeed, we are weak souls. Make us upon those who seek You in all aspects of our lives. Make us a humble slave of Yours and never leave us feeling hopeless in asking from You, Ya Rahman.

## The Struggles We Face When Making Du'a

Subhanallah, I have been learning a lot about du'a, and I think there are so many good things that I have gained, that I feel like I need to share it with other people. You know it is such a shame when you have learned so much, but you keep everything to yourself and refuse to share them.

I remember one of my teachers saying, “One of the best ways for you to preserve the ilm that you have learned is to share it with others.” I hope by sharing some of the tips, learning, virtues and the wisdom behind Talking To Allah SWT (TTA), I am also giving you some hope to keep making du'a to Allah SWT.

Before I started writing this book, I conducted a few sharing sessions with my audience about my du'a journey. I love du'a so much. I literally make du'a for everything in my life even for a pen I badly want from the stationery store. I am thankful to Allah SWT for giving me the opportunity to learn from many teachers about du'a. I splurged on various classes learning about du'a and it is fascinating to learn and understand such beautiful relationship between Allah SWT and yourself.



Among the issues that were raised during my sharing sessions were, I found out that a lot of people are struggling in making du'a because they do not feel confident to ask from Allah SWT or they do not know what they want to ask for. While some even thought, although they have been making du'a all this while, they do not feel the connection between them and Allah SWT. Whereas others find that du'a is challenging to be done because they have the understanding that du'a has to be made after each prayer, which they always feel as if time is not on their side - having to sit down, make du'a, and enjoy the du'a moment- they end up not making du'a at all.

Hence they frequently ask me;

“How that you love making du'a so much?”

“How do you ask from Allah SWT for so many things?

Don't you feel awkward about it?”

“Don't you feel like, it's funny to ask Allah SWT things like that?”

“Your du'a list is long, you even dedicate a book for it, and how do you find time or make time to read all these du'as?”

Well, inshaallah in this book, I will be answering these questions and I hope this book serves to help you understand and solve some of the issues you go through while making du'a. Hopefully it will also be able to answer questions that have been stucked in your mind for so long. I wish to help you build a lifestyle where you can talk to Allah SWT about anything, everything, and in whatever condition you are in. I want you to understand that our life is a continuous struggle because Allah SWT has clearly

mentioned it in the Quran that this life is a test.

*Or do you think that you will enter Paradise while such [trial] has not yet come to you as came to those who passed on before you? They were touched by poverty and hardship and were shaken until [even their] messenger and those who believed with him said, "When is the help of Allah?" Unquestionably, the help of Allah is near.*

{Al Baqarah: 214}

*Do the people think that they will be left to say, "We believe" and they will not be tried? But We have certainly tried those before them, and Allah will surely make evident those who are truthful, and He will surely make evident the liars.*

{Al Ankabut: 2-3}

These two aayat clearly tell us that we will all be tested but fret not because we will be able to go through it all with His help - Allah SWT is Al Kabeer; The Great One. He is The One Who puts us in the test, helps us go through the test and also He is The One Who will pull us out from the test. He never leaves you, not even a second, and we are in His guardian for every single second of our life. He can be reached at any time for help, He is Allah Al Hayy, The Eternally Living One, who never abandons us.

It is foolish of us every time we are tested we run to other than Allah SWT; we seek comfort, help, and peace from His creations rather than The Creator Himself. Do you know that it is very easy to seek the help of Allah SWT? Do you want to know how? The answer is through your ibadah – by calling out to Him, by making du'a to Allah SWT.

Du'a is the essence of an ibadah. Du'a is a conversation that you make to Allah SWT. It is a time that you dedicate to let The All-Hearing listen to all the words whether they are verbally said or all hidden in the depths of your heart. Du'a is the moment when you build that connection between you and Allah SWT.

So, this is what I would want to address in this book, this is what I want to help you with. I want to share with you my learnings, experiences, and stories in making du'a. I hope to inspire you and give you ideas on how to start making du'a again and to raise your hands with confidence towards Allah SWT.

As you go through all the chapters in this book, may Allah SWT open up your heart and grant you the understanding of what I wish to convey through my

writing. Truly, this humble experience of writing The Greatness of Allah SWT also belongs to Him alone. The main objective I wish to attain by writing this book is that you will be able to find your way back to Allah SWT, strengthen the relationship with Him through your du'as and may the effort you put to be closer to Him increase you in Tawheed and imaan towards Allah SWT. We seek Allah SWT alone for His help and the khayr (goodness) in everything that we do.

At the end of this book, I want you to be very sure that your life is good because you have Allah SWT. In everything that you do, even when it seems impossible, remember, everything is possible because you have Allah SWT. Allah SWT will never let you make du'a to Him and leave you empty-handed or leave you alone without any help. These are not the attributes of Allah SWT.

I want you to have yaqeen (full confidence) in making du'a to Allah SWT and you are feeling happy with the relationship that you have developed with Him.

I want you to enjoy making du'a to Him because you are very sure that He will never disappoint you. You feel so delighted to give your life, your soul, and you strive to be the best version of slave for Allah SWT.

Thus, do not forget to have your pen, or your highlighter and small sticky note pads together with you as you are reading this book. Any important information, phrase or paragraph that have touched you personally with a deep connection as you are reading this book, please do underline or highlight them. Straight away stick your note on the page, write down how those sayings or lines that have impacted you. What are the ibrah

(learnings) that you have learned and wanted to immediately start applying in your daily life? This will also ease you if you wish to come back and refer or study all the lines, to keep you motivated in making du'a to Allah SWT and to make TTA (talk to Allah SWT) as your lifestyle with Allah SWT.

We ask Allah SWT to grant us the understanding and we ask Allah SWT to allow us to make great quality du'a to Him, Ameen.

## A Letter To Allah SWT

**B**ismillahirrahmanirahim, My Lord, The Most Merciful and Compassionate.

When I was told by my editor to write this letter, I was so excited, but the moment I was in front of my laptop to type it out, I went blank. Not because I did not know what to write, nor was I at a loss of words; but because this was going to be a special letter, a letter that many would read, maybe.

Hence, I was quite nervous writing this one because my editor said they might want to publish this letter for the second book. For the first time, someone else might be reading my letter to You Ya Rabb.

I write my letters to You almost every single day. Sometimes, I write it during the night or the day but my favourite moments are the ones during the quiet moments after Tahajud. I find comfort and solace writing to You though these letters are not sent through any medium. They stay in my journal, and it is a secret only us two know—no one else.

The relationship I build with You and try to strengthen from day to day is something exceptional. I have never seen You with the pair of eyes You have given me, but Your presence is always felt and ‘seen’ through the

eyes of the heart. It is difficult to put into words, but I am feeling the love that is beyond what I thought I could ever experience. You are The Owner of Love, You are loved by many, and You love every single one of Your creations; the love I will never feel any less, but rather, it blooms every moment and only prosper stronger and better.

The love with You Ya Allah Al Jabbar, it never breaks. I had my meltdown so many times with other matters, but it is always You, who help me to be reliable and patient. You mend things, give me lessons and wisdom through every episode of this life. It is also You who made it possible for me to stand again and walk through it all come what may. How can I not love You, My Rabb?

O' Allah, I usually start my letters to You in my journal with gratitude. Nothing different in this one, I still

like to express my highest gratitude to You and all the fantastic things I am experiencing because of You. There is a list of things I want to thank You, starting with these tears that are filling my eyes the moment I am typing this. These beautiful eyes shed tears every single time the mind remembers how You are The Most Great and Powerful. I am genuinely a tiny servant, continually trying to please You and bow to You, Ya Allah.

My top gratitude is my Being A Quran Tag Girl book. I am still amazed by how this project happened so soon and with all the success that came after it from You. I remember praying my istikharah to You and crying buckets on the praying mat because I doubted myself. I was scared to even think about replying to the editor's message. I could not sleep for many nights ever since she popped the question if I would like to write a book.

After my ‘Talk To Allah’ (TTA) session with You, I felt at ease. I felt the spirit of writing though I had zero experience. You know I have been proposed by a few other publications before, but this time, with my editor’s publication, giving the “yes” was light and comfortable. You always know what is best for me; everything You plan, works perfectly for me, and for that, I am incredibly grateful Ya Allah. I accepted the challenge, and my journey as an author began.

When I was unsure of my decision, You gave me hope and faith. I remember precisely, Your saying in The Quran, that You will never burden anyone with something they cannot bear. I remind myself that You have so much trust in me; hence You made the opportunity to knock on my door. I accepted the challenge though I was not sure how it is going to be, but I relied on You Ya Allah and went

with it. Every day, You never fail to encourage and convince me to go on. You send me beautiful reminders and cheer team through Your amazing creations.

You witnessed all the process of writing the manuscript. You saw all tears I shed and moments of giving up, but as always, there is no such thing as failure with You. I fled to You for help again and again, and You made it possible for me to complete the book. I could not believe it myself, but nothing is impossible because I have You, Ya Allah, The One Who plans and makes a plan succeed.

This is all in Your knowledge from the very beginning, Ya Allah, but I am typing this down for memory sake and letting You know again, we made it to the bestseller list. Allahuma Barik Laha. I was too excited when the news

came to me, (well, You saw it) and of course the Ayesha You created burst into tears for a few moments. Such joyful news to be celebrated. We made it to the number one bestseller for a few weeks in a row, sold 11 000 copies of the book in the year 2019, and Ya Allah thank You again for making me trust myself when I doubted myself the most.

Thank You, Allah, for not once abandoning my side. There were so many days that I felt hopeless, but my faith in You restored through all the learning and experience I gain every day. I once lived a life with no purpose, but with Your mercy and guidance, I woke up every day intending to be better for You, to be placed in a house next to You in Jannah. Life goals become more evident, for You bless upon me the knowledge to improve myself.

Thank You, Allah, for the whole incredible years ever since I made the turn to come back to You. I am sorry I used to think You would never accept my repentance, and there was no way You will ever forgive me with my too many sins. I was utterly wrong; failure in life brought me to a U-turn to You. I found light and hope in Your religion, in Your words (Quran), in the Sunnah of the one You love most; beloved Prophet SAW, and most importantly, I found You deep down in my rusty heart that You helped me polish so that it shines again.

Sometimes writing these letters to You is a great moment for me to reflect. I am scared to live my life without You. I would be in crucial loss and pain. I sincerely pray to You, to guard my Imaan, and protect me from anything that may cause me to lose You in my heart and mind. I know for a fact that I need You the most, and



nothing should come in between my worship to You because You alone are worthy of all my praises and prayers.

Thank You again, Allah, for everything. For all the pain and tears, You replace them with high achievement I have never imagined my whole life. Till my next letter, Inshaallah.

I love You My Rabb, so dearly.

## **PART 2: UNDERSTANDING RELIANCE AFTER TALKING TO ALLAH**

## Du'a 101

So, what is a du'a? I would like to share with you something about du'a. The word du'a itself comes from the word Da'a (د ع ا) which was then derived into 'Du'a'. The root word meaning of du'a means to call out or to summon, and du'a means an invocation, which is an act of supplication, a conversation with Allah SWT.

Why do we need to make du'a? Du'a is the essence of ibadah in our daily life. When you are talking to Allah

SWT, you are building and affirming tawheed in you. You are growing a very strong faith in your heart that your life is a success only with the help of Allah SWT. You are evolving that concept of monotheism in you, that Allah SWT is One. With each du'a you make to Allah SWT, it increases your trust in Allah SWT. As you talk more to Allah SWT it will eventually help in growing your relationship with Him.

I believe Allah SWT has granted at least some of the du'as you have made throughout your life, right? How do you feel about it? I am sure the joy of you seeing your du'as being granted is unexplainable and indescribable. You feel at ease and comforted knowing in your heart that Allah SWT truly listens to your tiny voice conversing with Him. It convinces you so much and you begin to understand about Allah SWT and His attributes. You

subconsciously set in your mind that Allah SWT truly listens, and He pays attention to the du'a you're making.

With all this overwhelming feeling seeing your du'as being granted, does it push you to talk more to Allah SWT? Does it give you hope to be perseverent in making du'a to Him? Do all du'a moments you have with Him slowly help you to understand precisely the relationship between yourself and Allah SWT? Well, I hope it does, because by talking to Allah SWT we are slowly building reliance on Him. Now think of some du'as you have made, have Allah SWT answered them all? If so, how is this strengthening your relationship with Him? And if your du'a has not yet been answered, how has this waiting period affect your relationship with Him? Are you becoming astray or even closer to Him? Take the time to reflect this for a moment.

Well, I hope your humbling moments talking to Allah SWT have created even a stronger bond between you and Allah SWT. If you are struggling to feel that connection between you and Allah SWT, perhaps you must learn more about Him. Remember, a du'a is made ourself to Allah SWT. It is a special relationship each believer has with Him. We know that we cannot make du'a to other than Him. For example, making du'a to a sun, tree, building, temple, person or other living and non-living creations. That is definitely against the shariah and a complete shirk towards Allah SWT. Thus, make du'a only to Allah SWT, and keep your love grows for Him. Keep striving to please Him and show Allah SWT your effort that you truly love Allah SWT and want to be loved by Him.

When I first learned the deen, there were so many do's and don'ts. I ended up getting more confused and felt

unmotivated to even start making du'a. One of the reasons I was too lazy to make du'a was because I was told that if I wanted to make du'a I must cover my head, must be in a state of wudhu', must face the qiblah and the list goes on. If I did not do all these, my du'a will never be granted. I felt disappointed, I knew I was nothing near that state. I did not wear hijab, sometimes I even forget which body parts were involved in performing the ablution were.

Can you imagine, how undeserving I felt to make du'a to Allah SWT? Though deep down, I really wanted to say something to Him, I had so many thoughts bottled up in my mind, and I was afraid to let it out to Allah SWT because of all the so-called religious technicalities – which I had long forgotten.

I went through an awful experience. I was only

exposed to the “must-do-this-or-else-don't make du'a at all” experience. Therefore, I do not want you to go through the same situation. I want you to feel the excitement in talking to Allah SWT. Make it a habit till you never want your day to pass by not talking to Him because your heart longs for your du'a to be heard by Allah SWT.

Do not make du'a such a difficult task for you that you end up feeling making du'a is a burden thus leading you to be discouraged from making du'a to Allah SWT. Your connection to Allah SWT is like no other, though you might come to Allah SWT not well prepared with a list of du'as full of beautiful words, Allah SWT accepts you in all of your form, no judgment, just merely His pure love and affection for you. So, go start talking to Allah SWT, make it simple but full of confidence.

Do not get me wrong. I am not saying that you can completely ignore the etiquettes in making du'a but first and foremost, I want you to focus on building that relationship with Allah SWT. Do not have doubts in Him and most importantly do not judge yourself and your du'a to Allah SWT. Let Allah SWT alone decide whether your du'a presentation to Him is permissible in His sight or the other way round. The last thing that we want to do is judge, be it ourselves or of others. We do not want to be the reason people lose hope in Allah SWT.

I sincerely believe, those who make an effort to be closer to Allah SWT, He will grant the understanding bit by bit. Everything in life comes in phases, and same goes for the knowledge and understanding we receive from Allah SWT.

When the right time comes, Allah SWT will put in you the knowledge that is beneficial and He knows best what will do well for you in life.

Hence, I really recommend, as you learn to curate your du'a, have the Asma'ul Husna (99 names of Allah SWT) list together with you. You can go to Google and plenty is available there. Choose one and print it out to keep it close to you so that you can reach for it every time you make du'a to Allah SWT.

Learning the attributes of Allah SWT through His beautiful names will really give so much difference in curating your du'a to Allah SWT. I want to encourage you to memorise those names and remember them by heart. Even when you converse to Allah SWT with your du'a list in hand, you will be very confident to call Allah SWT with

His other beautiful names. Mashaallah, is that not lovely?  
A tongue that constantly mentions the name of his Lord?  
May Allah SWT help us all to remember Him always in our  
heart and mind, Ameen.

## 4 Types of Du'as

### **1. Du'a from the Quran**

I do not have anything much that I can share on the etiquettes of making du'a because I am not an expert in fiqh. However, I want to share with you some of the great times that you should grab and pay attention to while making du'a.

Well, there are so many ways and suitable times that

we can make du'a. We can recite du'a from the Quran - I personally have discovered 72 du'as from the Quran and hope to learn and find more, Inshaallah.

As you go through the Quran, you will see there are plenty of du'as in the Quran that Allah SWT has taught us. They are the best du'as because these are the ones that Allah SWT spoke directly to us and asks us to learn and follow. I love du'as from the Quran, because through these du'as, you can learn to curate du'as of your own.

## **2. Du'a from the sunnah**

There are also du'a from the sunnah which are also the du'as from the teaching of prophet Muhammad SAW. You can go through a lot of the hadiths where the prophet SAW conveyed to you more on the du'as you can make for

example, the morning adhkar and the evening adhkar. My favourite du'a from the Prophet SAW is the du'a on anxiety, which is a very beautiful du'a. I will include this du'a in the chapter of my list of favorite du'as. If you go through the du'as that the prophet SAW had taught us, you will notice that the prophet SAW had prepared us for all the challenges that we might go through in life. When you feel like you do not know what to ask or say while you are going through difficult situations, just remember that the prophet SAW had already taught us what are the du'as that we can say.

We should be so thankful that Allah SWT grants Islam. Allah SWT chose us to be in this religion not by chance, but truly because He knows that this is the best for us. And indeed it is. Pondering upon how lucky we are to be Muslims gives us a moment to appreciate a lot of things

in life as little as making du'a. Whenever you think that you have been struck dumbfounded and loss for words and you just do not know what to pray to Allah SWT. He has already provided you with the script for you to recite du'a from the Quran and sunnah. All you have you have to do is read it out with full of faith towards Him. How can we not love Him? Even to the littlest thing like this, He prepared it so well for us all.

### **3. Curate your personal du'a**

You can also make your personal du'as which are the ones that I am going to describe more and share with you readers, Inshaallahu Ta'ala. I love personal du'as because they are alike to secrets that only you and Allah know. Personal du'as are like the conversations you have with Allah consciously or subconsciously and you may not even

realise that it is actually a du'a because you sound as if you are talking to yourself, but you continue talking to Him anyway. I love talking to Allah about anything or everything I want in life. It makes me feel so close to Him. I always take these personal du'a moments to talk about things that are very personal to me and most of the time these are the things that I do not tell others.

### **4. Du'a made by others**

Last but not least, is the du'a from others. I think all of us today can go through life because of the du'as from the most influential people in our life. Their du'as are the ones Allah SWT has accepted and made us who we are today. Subhanallah, I believe a lot of us are very successful because of the du'a of our parents, our family members, our friends, and other people. This makes us appreciate



the people around us.

Think about those whom you really love right now. Imagine without you knowing, they continuously make du'a for you, and your life has been nothing but exceptional because of these du'as. Beautiful, right? Now, do you feel like you appreciate their presence more in your life?

Well, I also encourage you to make lots of du'a for other people. Lets not just hopelessly asking people to make du'a for you but in return you never give them any of your du'a.

My dear friends, please do make du'a for others because Mashaallah the reward for it is beyond what we can imagine!

*Abu Dharr reported that Allah's Messenger SAW said: There is no believeing servant who supplicates for his brother behind his back (in his absence) that the Angels do not say: The same be for you.*

[Sahih Muslim]

Subhanaallah! Can you imagine for every du'a you say for others, the angel will say "Ameen" to it too? Don't you feel honoured to have the angels making du'a for you? I love making du'as for others because it is like getting a great big package. Imagine that you really want something, but instead of just making du'a for yourself, you ask the same thing for others and automatically the angels make that same du'a for you. Sometimes we are just too lazy to make du'a for ourselves and let alone for others, right? This hadith should motivate us to spend some time in our daily life to make du'a for others so that

we would get the same great du'a from the angels.

Do you know the angels are such pure and perfect creations of Allah SWT? They are literally in the state of ibadah towards Allah SWT all the time. I was once told by my teacher, some angels are in a state of ruku', sujud all their life. Isn't it amazing to have them making du'a for you? Let's encourage ourselves to make more du'a for others in their absence.

I hope you have changed your perception of du'a. After you have finished reading this book, you will make du'a as your daily essentials and at the same time you have also learned great things about du'a. I ask Allah SWT to give you beautiful patience to keep reading this book till the end and may you find all the contents here beneficial and applicable in your life, inshaallah. Ameen.

## Being Connected to Allah SWT

**B**efore I started learning the deen many years back, I had the understanding that a du'a has to be made after every prayer. And the old me back then, would either rush into prayer, or I would not pray at all. So in both situations, I would end up not making du'a at all. In the beginning, I felt bad about it, but it was just a once in a while feeling. Once I was all okay again, the bad feeling disappeared, and the cycle went on and on. I would ask for His

forgiveness for all the times I disobeyed Him intentionally or unintentionally.

Many times I heard people say that you are one arrogant person when you do not make du'a after prayer. How are you able to live and not ask anything from Allah SWT? I was aware of that, and I feared in my heart;

“Why am I so arrogant?”

“Why did not I ask Allah SWT for anything?”

I wanted to convince myself that I did not ask from Him because I did not know what I wanted. But most of the time, I realised I did know what I wanted, it's just that I did not really know The One I wanted to ask from. In a nutshell, I did not know Allah SWT, I was not close to Him and I was assuming that Allah was more likely not

going to listen to my du'a, what even more to grant it because I was a bad person. I felt like this was what Allah SWT had set my life into – to be a bad person. So why bother making du'a when my du'a would not be accepted? Nauzubillah min zalik, how foolish I was back then.

## *Removing the barrier*

Allah is Ar Rahman, The Most Merciful. When I had bad thoughts about Him, He opened up a path of hope to prove me wrong. He gave me the light to the way that He is pleased with and He showed me that He is indeed Al Haadi; The Provide of Guidance. Alhamdulillah, by His will, I slowly started learning the deen. I started praying, and I started making du'a after every prayer by looking at the du'a books that I have.

Over time this du'a recitation became a normal routine after prayer, but I did not feel like there was a connection between me and Allah SWT. Du'a session became autopilot, no ikhlas (sincerity) and merely they were just words I uttered which gave no effect to my heart. I felt like I wanted to change that; I wanted to say du'as that I did not have to depend reading from a book or du'as that were recited commonly. I started asking myself, would that be okay Islamically? Would it be permissible from the shariah perspective?

But wait, before I go more into detail, I want to share with you this one story that made me feel like Allah SWT is truly listening to my du'a eventhough the words were not beautifully arranged like the ones in the du'a books and how that moment of du'a changed my perception about Allah SWT and changed me as a person. I began to

have a better understanding about du'a to Allah SWT and that du'a moment really changed entirely the way I make du'a to Allah SWT.

Many years back, I ran an online business and many times and I frequently drove back and forth to meet my supplier to pick up stocks from them. So one day, as I was driving to meet them to get their new collection in store, someone who was dear to me made a phone call and asked me if she could borrow some amount of money. The amount that she wanted to be loaned to was a few thousands ringgit.

Listening to her stories, I was so keen to help her. She was someone I truly loved, and I did not want to disappoint her or let money come in between our beautiful relationship. I did have some savings in my account and I

had enough to pay my supplier for the new stocks, but my savings was just enough to make a living for another month, and if I gave all the amount to her, I would be left with nothing. It took me a while to answer her. I was torn but my feelings were inclined towards helping my friend.

I convinced myself, "It's okay, I have Allah SWT. He will provide for me and compensate me. He is Allah the Ar Razaq; The Total Provider." I had a firm belief in my heart, Allah SWT would help me to make more money to survive the following month. In the end, I was able to live because Allah chose and let me to, not because of the amount of money that I had in my bank account.

Without further thinking, I said yes to my friend and told her I would transfer the money soonest. I trusted her words that she would pay me on time because I personally

knew her and she had always been that someone who always kept her promises for as long as I have known her.

After I transferred her the money, and as I was driving to meet my supplier, I remember saying one thing casually to Allah. I said, “Ya Allah, that was the only money left. I do have some other amount, but that is the one that I am going to use to pay my supplier. So if I lent her that amount of money, I am left with nothing. Whatever money that I have now is the one that I’m going to pay my supplier and the balance was what I already lent to my friend.”

Throughout that journey to meet my supplier I kept talking to Allah SWT. I talked to Him about everything. One minute I was telling Him how I was actually worried about not having any amount left in my bank, and another

minute I was talking to Him about the person I lent the money to. I talked to Allah SWT about my business plan, the numbers of sales I wanted to achieve, what my plans were for that day, what I wanted to eat for dinner. There were so many things I talked to Allah SWT during that one hour and a half journey to meet my supplier.

Once in awhile during those conversations, I teared up talking to Him for no reason, simply just because I felt at ease and so comforting. I knew I have never felt like that before but the feeling was so peaceful and calming in my mind; I felt empowered.

I reached my venue, met my supplier and drove another one and a half hour back home. While driving I continued talking to Allah SWT again. I told Him that I was very worried about my financial situation, but during

this time I was talking to Him, I was in a position that I needed Allah to hear me so much. I was begging and crying as I talked to Him. I said, “Ya Allah, You know the amount of money that I have now in the bank. And I know that you are the only One who gives sustenance and rizq to me. So O’ Allah, for my intention in helping her, please ya Allah, make it an ease that I am able to sell all the stocks in hand and make good sales.” I talked to Him and cried buckets. I kept on repeating that I wanted Allah SWT to help me with the sale all the new stocks I just picked up from the supplier.

As I reached home, I continued doing my work, as usual, sorting out the items, taking pictures of them, updating my website, on my Instagram, on my other social media platforms and waiting for the orders. Do you want to know what happen next? As all the items were

launched, I received orders non-stop.

But what shocked me the most was, I received an order from an international customer who ordered my items and her total of payment was thrice the amount I lent to my friend that morning. At that time, I could not stop crying. I repeatedly said “Thank You, Allah!”

I was so surprised because as I was telling my worries to Allah SWT earlier in the morning I was not in a state of wudhu’, and I even had no du’a book in my hands. Just pure words from my heart and feelings while talking to Him.

A few days after that, all the items that I took from my supplier was completely sold out. At that point of time, I sat down and cried in tears, thanking Allah SWT, saying, “Ya Allah, thank you so much for making this happen. I

just gave a few amounts and then You replaced it with a very huge amount, and I really can't thank You enough. Thank you Allah, alhamdulillah, thank you so much.”

My emotions were a mix of happiness, overwhelmed, gratefulness, and in between all those feelings I was still so surprised with the amount Allah SWT gave back to me in exchange for what I lent to my dear friend.

I started thinking, “SubhanAllah. Allah listened to my prayers.” I began asking myself whether the way I talked to Allah SWT in that manner was considered as a du'a because I was not sitting on my prayer mat, I was not raising my hands, and I was not referring to any book. I was just telling things to Allah. And when I saw what Allah SWT had given me back in return, it had changed the way I make du'a. I began to learn the most important essence

of du'a, which is faith that is to have full confidence that Allah SWT listens to all our sayings and all the du'as that we make to Allah SWT.

I started to think, Allah SWT listens to all forms of du'a. It does not matter whether you are on your sajadah or you are in the car, and in whatever that you are doing, Allah listens. At first, I thought that it was awkward because I grew up learning and understanding that du'a has to be made after prayer. So if you were casually talking to Him, while you were not in your wudhu' and you are not actually on your prayer mat raising your hands or anything, is that even possible?

After that incident, I made more du'as. I talked to Him more and more almost every day. Until one day, I was feeling scared. I began asking myself, was I doing this



right? What if this was not permissible in Islam? What if this was not something within the shariah, and it was not acceptable? We know that we will all be tested, even in our ibadah. I took all the questions I have in mind as a sign from Allah SWT pushing me to seek more knowledge, to ask from the right teacher, to ensure my feelings and worshipping to Allah SWT is not something I do that is driven by my own logic and understanding but rather with the right guidance from the Quran and Sunnah.

Alhamdulillah by the will of Allah SWT, one day, I had the opportunity to sit down with my teacher. I shared with him my experience and I asked him. “I am starting to learn the deen. I find it difficult to make du’a like the ones stated in the book. Can I just make du’a to Allah SWT, in a way that I am talking to Him? I mean by using the language I converse every day that doesn’t include

bombastic, poetic and rhymery words in my du’as?”

He looked at me and asked, “Why not? Why should there be any barrier between you and Allah?” According to him, a relationship between you and Allah SWT is a special bonding that no secret lies in between.

He said, “Yes, you may, and you can talk to Allah in any way as long as you don’t commit shirk in making du’a to Him. Allah understands all languages, even the ones that you don’t utter. Including the thoughts in your mind and the ones that you said in your heart. He listens, knows and understands even when you yourself don’t understand it”

He then told me, “Allah tells us in the Quran that He is nearer than the jugular vein and no one can come as close as that. Only Allah can come that close to you.”

Here are the aayat Allah mentioned in The Quran:

*Say, "Whether you conceal what is in your breasts or reveal it, Allah knows it. And He knows that which is in the heavens and that which is on the earth. And Allah is over all things competent.*

{Ali 'Imran:29}

*"And We have already created man and know what his soul whispers to him, and We are closer to him than [his] jugular vein"*

{Qaf:16}

Mashaallah, these aayat are very comforting. This is why I love reading The Quran. I may not fully understand, nor memorize the Quran like the scholars and asatizah, but I believe each knowledge comes to us by His will. Allah SWT chose wisely what is best for us to learn and He gives

it accordingly to our ability. As for myself, after the long years of trying to strengthen my relationship with the Quran, alhamdulillah, this year I challenge myself to learn ta'leem Quran (emphasis on Quran education). Please make du'a for me that I will complete my course in time and may all the knowledge be beneficial for myself and the society, ameen.

Okay, let us get back to the session with my teacher. He then continued and said to me, "Yes, you can make the du'a to Allah using language and words in your daily conversation, as though as you are talking to Him; that is a part of du'a too because there are so many ways of making du'a. There is no one right way to make du'a to Allah". Listening to his explanation, I felt relief, and I was satisfied with his explanations. I ask Allah Al Alim; The All-Knowing to raise the ranks of all my teachers, preserve

their knowledge and keep on inspiring them to add value to the ummah, Ameen.

So ever since the question and answering session with my teacher, I have become more confident to talk to Allah SWT. I find so much ease doing it every day. The first few tries were quite awkward because I was trying to unlearn the concept and techniques that had been nesting in my mind for the longest of time- like making du'a only after prayer, raising your hands, and the list goes on.

I want to enjoy every session telling things to Allah. I do not want to feel pressured in making du'a, so I start making TTA as a lifestyle and habit. Some days I talk to Him; other days, I write down; some days my du'a is just in the form of tears but nevertheless, I feel at ease and feel even closer to Him that way rather than blindly reading

du'a words from the book.

However, do not get me wrong. I am not condemning any du'a books out there. I personally have one too, and one that I love the most is 'Fortress of The Muslim'. It is a compilation of du'a made by the prophet SAW. I read du'as from this book on a daily basis. My whole point is, I do not want you to succumb to the idea that making du'a to Allah must only use proper words that sound melodious. It is alright to talk to Allah even if the words are all over the place. For Allah knows better what you really want, and He does not judge the du'a based on how beautiful it may sound, but rather He is seeing us through our sincerity and effort in making du'a to Him.

If you are intending to start your TTA journey, let's do it! You have my full support. You may feel awkward in the

beginning but keep going. You will find excitement in making du'a to Allah. Do not worry about the outcome of your du'a but focus on building faith in Allah through TTA. Not all du'as we made come prepared. Some days you would have meltdowns and all you want to do is cry, while some other days you are most happy and you feel like screaming your lungs out talking to Allah- not in a rude way- but in the "so-excited" kind of way. Do you think Allah SWT does not see all this? He does, He acknowledges our feelings and allows us to express it to the right channel, which is to Him.

I overcame this awkwardness in TTA simply by keep doing it. Let me share with you this analogy; if you have just started getting to know someone and you really like this person, you will always feel awkward or shy around this person because you do not know this person inside,

out, right? When you are shy, your words and actions are limited. You are not ready to open up to them.

What happens as you become closer to each other? You get along together so well and the more you learn about this person, things get more comfortable. Opening up to this person is not so difficult anymore. You can tell them secrets that you tell no one. You do not do this with anybody or anyone because you do not know everyone and you only do this with someone that you know, someone that you are very comfortable with.

So I guess the best way to overcome the awkward feeling while TTA is to keep doing it. Perseverance is the key they said. Keep on learning and get to know Allah SWT. Try to be closer to Him through seeking knowledge, reading Quran, doing ibadah and making du'a.

Along the way, you will find comfort and peace in making du'a to Allah and you will become clearer of the purpose of you living as His slave. The word 'slave' in the context of the modern world today means 'force to obey' or 'work excessively hard'. It does sound very negative, but if we talked about the concept of being a slave to Allah; it gives a whole different meaning.

Being the slave of Allah SWT, means reliance. Allah is doing everything for you and in return all you give back in return is complete worship and to glorify Him. The more obedient you are as His slave, the more your rank will be raised, your path will be made easy, you will be mentioned in the gathering of the angels, a house for you will be built next to Allah in Jannah, and paradise is guaranteed for the best slaves of Allah SWT.

Nevertheless, slavery in our context today, is when one does everything for his master, gives a lot to his master but the return one receives is complete humiliation. Such different and how beautiful is Allah Al Azeem; The Magnificent One. Thus, when we understand the relationship of slaving to Allah, it only brings us closer to Him. We cling to Allah and seek Him as our Master to provide us everything. Hence the way we speak to Allah Al Hafiz; The Guarding One is through our words of du'a.

The more I practice TTA, the more I realise making du'a to Allah is not just a mere request asking for something from Allah SWT. My TTA moment is where I express and share everything about me, feeling all pampered by Allah SWT. Subhanallah, as you come closer to Allah, you will feel the sweetness of imaan and a

relationship that no one can understand. You have never seen Allah SWT, but in your heart, talking to Him gives so much comfort and joy. You can speak as if He is in front of you.

Now can you even imagine if you get to see Allah with your pair of eyes? Just having the thought of it gives a glimpse of happiness, Allahuakbar! Ya Allah Al Majeed; The Glorious One, choose us all to be in Your highest level of Jannah, and give us a personal moment to meet You and talk to You in Jannatul Firdaus, Ya Rabb, Ameen.

Sometimes, whenever I sit down alone and think about Allah SWT, I start crying heavily. It is not because I do not get what I want but crying thanking Allah SWT for the closeness I feel to Him. I have never seen Him, but my heart is missing Him.

When I get so caught up with life and busy with unnecessary things, it breaks my heart that I am not able to make the time for My Lord Who listens to me tirelessly. I am ashamed that every single time I run back to Allah SWT after being astray, He still allows me to remember Him, to cry for His attention and talk to Him again. Talk to Allah is no comparable to anyone, the after feeling of it is just so good and calming that you would want to repeat more of it.

Inshaallah the awkwardness will somehow get away when you keep on practicing because the One who removes this awkwardness is also Allah SWT. You just have to continue doing it sincerely and genuinely to let Him know, that you need Allah SWT in everything that you do in life. When you can feel and understand that, you will eventually be able to remove that barrier because you

realise that nothing in this life ever happens unless it is by the will of Allah SWT. You will begin to make this whole TTA thing as a routine that will eventually become your habit, and in the end becomes a part of you.

Give it a try and keep on moving towards bettering yourself for the sake of Allah SWT because when you can do that, you will find the sweetness of talking to Allah SWT. He will grant you the comfort and peacefulness in talking to Him and you will enjoy every single moment doing TTA. You can try by just saying something to Allah SWT and share things with Him. If you do not try it out, you would never know how it feels and how it turns out.

May Allah SWT put us all in a position that we love making du'a to Him, and we ask Allah SWT to continue and inspire us to keep making du'a to Him, Al Mujeeb;

The Responding One, Ameen.

## *Constant connection, like wi-fi*

So we have talked about removing the barrier in talking to Allah SWT and in this topic, I want to discuss a little bit on how do we actually nurture ourselves so that we can be closer to Him. As you can see in this modern day, the world that we live in constantly works and depends on the internet or wifi connection.

Everywhere we go, everyone around us would be on their phones, laptops or tablets. Without wifi connection,

everyone become helpless; literally all daily activities would have to be halted because everyone become lifeless without the wifi connection. They could not scroll their Instagram or Facebook feed, tweet, complete their work, read the online tabloids or shop online. Wifi today has become a necessity that every people need. Wherever we go, everybody needs the wifi connection. That is how big of a role a wifi connection plays in our daily life.

I mentioned in an earlier topic that du'a is the essence of ibadah. Just like the wifi connection, du'a is something we need in our daily life. It is a necessity for our soul. If we did not practice making du'a, we can never go any deeper in having faith and will eventually break down. Imagine when you have so much to say, so much feelings trapped inside you and you have no one to speak about it to. At the end of the day, you will collapse. You become numb



because your mind becomes completely exhausted as you are not able to express yourself anymore.

Hence, this is why we need du'a; an invocation or a prayer that we address to Allah SWT. Du'a is the best shield of a believer. Du'a should be the matter a believer does the first and the last in their life. For everything that we want and need to do, we seek Allah's blessings and help through du'a. The beauty of du'a is not just about the thing that we desire and we make du'a for, du'a is also about the things that we do not wish to have, or want them be taken away. There is not one right way to make du'a. Conversing with Allah SWT comes in many ways and there are plenty of books discussing du'a from all kinds of perspectives – ideal timing, the adabs in making the du'a, the do's and don'ts and others.

Above all, I want you to fully understand that, we all connect to Allah SWT in many different ways. We believe what we understand, and we celebrate the differences of others as long as it does not lead to shirk. Remember, differences are good, and it does not have to be the same for everybody and that is okay.

## **Ways To Nurture The Connection**

So how do we nurture ourselves in making du'a and become closer to Allah SWT through du'a, regardless of the condition, situation, and the challenges that we go through? In order for us to be able to be in the position to continuously make du'a to Allah SWT, we must get to know Allah SWT, first and foremost. We must learn things about The One we are making du'a to. In my previous book, 'Being A Quran Tag Girl', I shared how can you

make yourself fall in love with the Quran so that you will enjoy reciting it.

The same case here, you will look forward to making du'a to Allah SWT when you get to know Him deeply. The more you seek knowledge about Allah and get to know Him, the easier it feels to make du'a and obey Him.

### ***i. His Names and Attributions***

First, get to know Allah SWT through His names and His attributions. When we truly understand the attributes of Allah SWT, we will be able to become closer to Him. Just like how you become closer to a person. The more you get to know a person, the easier it gets to be around them. The more time you spend with them, the more you understand this person and how things work around them. Subhanallah, there are so many ways that we can do

in getting to know Allah SWT, and one way is by understanding the 99 names of Allah SWT.

I want to share about the name of Allah; As Sami' – The All Hearer. So the name As Sami' comes from the root word of س م ع which have the following classical Arabic connotations meaning; to hear, to listen, to accept, to receive, to be bold, to pay attention to, pay regard to, to understand the meaning.

Subhanallah the meaning of the root word As Sami' itself is so beautiful that we can understand one of the best attributes of Allah is that He is The One Who Loves to Hear. When He listens, He pays attention to it. That is amazing, right? We are even taught that good listeners are the one who pay attention to the one who is speaking, and here we are talking and discussing Allah's attributes. The

amount of Allah's attention is incomparable to anyone or anything and whether we speak verbally loud or just a tiny voice talking in our heart or thoughts that crosses our mind, every single word of it is listened by Allah and none goes to waste or unattended by Him.

Can you imagine that there are a gazillion creations of Allah SWT in this world? These creations; all the trees, animals, every single stone, the little ants; they are all making dhikr to Allah SWT. Amazingly, there are millions of us in this world, and in every part of the world, people are making du'a to Allah SWT every single second. Even so, Allah listens to each and every du'a we make, from every single creation. He knows who is the person making du'a to Him. He recognizes our voice. He listens to whatever that we are saying.

For example, my name is Ayesha. Imagine how many Ayeshas there are in this world? I'm sure there must be millions and they might live anywhere in all corners around this world. Some may be places that we know, some that we may not know of its existence.

However, every time I, Ayesha, make du'a,- despite of the other Ayesha who lives in London or maybe another Ayesha who lives in Malaysia itself – Allah knows exactly which Ayesha is calling up to Him and He knows exactly who this person is. He is never confused nor get things mixed up. Subhanallah, that is so great! Though we are so tiny and on top of all the sounds that exist in this world, you may think your voice would not be heard, be rest assured that Allah The All Hearing, listens and your voice matters to Him among with the others.

This is just us going in-depth taking reflections on one of His attributes. We have not yet gone through the other 98 names of His. By learning and understanding the attribute that Allah is As Sami', The One Who Listens tirelessly and unconditionally, The Ever Listening to voice of all His creations, that alone has already made us love Him even more. I love that I can feel so much love towards Allah SWT by learning His name and His attributes. Thus, I encourage you to set an intention to learn the names of Allah SWT in which every time you call Allah SWT, the love and bond between you and Him grows better and stronger each day.

I have joined a few classes on learning the Asmaul' Husna, and every single time I learn more of His names, I become so amazed and totally mindblown; Allah's perfection is beyond what our brain can interpret and our

mind can ever imagine. Learning about his name has got to be the best investment I have made so far and I am truly thankful for the knowledge because it truly helps me to be closer to Allah SWT and enjoy my TTA time with Him. He is indeed The Best of all The Best. Hence, if you ever feel that Allah SWT never listens to your du'a, take a moment to reflect again upon His greatness and generosity to you and us all.

When we truly understand that Allah is Ever Listening, this should not stop us in making du'a. We should feel even more motivated each time because we are sure that Allah SWT never put our du'a to waste and all our beggings to Him is equally important regardless of how little our du'a is, even if it is just a small request of what you wish to eat. Yeappp! Allah pays attention to it all.

I understand why some people feel scared to make du'a especially on matters that they feel impossible to happen. This is because we compare the attributes of Allah SWT to our limited capability as human beings. Remember, Allah SWT is not human, He is The One who created us. Hence, even the impossible is possible for Allah SWT, so do not doubt Him. Raise your du'a with full confidence that Allah SWT listens and will grant them.

I can never stress you enough regarding the importance of understanding the names of Allah SWT. When you are able to comprehend His names and attributes, it keeps you humble when making du'a to Him. The other name of Allah SWT that I really like is Allah Al Mujib, The Responding One. It is not just that He listens, He also responds. Allah mentioned in the Quran about this beautiful verse that I keep so close to my heart. This

aayah gives you the source of assurance and secure that your du'a is heard by Allah and He will grant it according to what He knows best.

*“And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided.”*

{Al Baqarah:186}

Allah SWT says directly that if you call upon Him and be obedient, He will respond. He even assured us that by believing Him, Allah SWT will guide us to the right path. Though He instructs us to be obedient, there are still times we neglect His rulings but He gives anyway, unconditionally, to us.

I reflected upon this aayah on myself and could not help but tear up thinking of how Allah SWT is very Merciful. Despite all the sins I commit everyday, He gives me blessings upon blessings every second of my breath. How foolish I am sometimes to be mad at Him for thinking that Allah SWT does not answer my du'a.

Therefore, I do not want you to feel that you are not good enough or that you are not a pious servant of His. Always remember that you are important in the sight of Allah SWT. Do not let the negative thoughts take over you and make you stop making du'a to Allah SWT. Look at the names of Allah SWT and their meanings, feel them in your heart and be rest assured that every time you call upon Him, He responds.

Allah SWT really loves when His servants call upon

Him. Hopefully, as you go through His names, we begin to accept the fact that we all matter to Allah SWT even with all our sinful acts, flaws and imperfection. I want to share with you another name of His that I really love, which is Allah Al Wahhab. The meaning of Al Wahhab is The Supreme Bestower. He bestows upon all of His slaves regardless you are a Muslim, or not yet a Muslim. He gives to us out of love He has for every creation that He made.

Look around us, what do you find insufficient? We practically have everything that we need to survive though we might not have what we wanted. The only thing that we are lacking is thankfulness.

Yes! We are lacking in showing and giving our utmost gratitude to Allah SWT. We should feel grateful and thankful to Allah that He has given us so much but in

return we disobey Him and being unappreciative to Him.

I have explained a few names of Allah SWT in this chapter and I hope the explanation gives you encouragement to keep on learning Asmaul' Husna. There are plenty more of His names that you should learn. I personally enjoy going through the names of Allah SWT and learning their meanings and attributes. It affirms my belief that Allah SWT really does exist and He is there to help me, to be with me and go through with me in whatever or whenever that I need Him. I highly recommend that as you recite your du'a or write your du'a list, read or curate it together with the names of Allah SWT.

## ***ii. Doing reflections through Tadabbur***

Secondly, one of the ways that I find helpful in order

to feel connected to Allah SWT is by doing reflections. I believe reflection is something that you should give to yourself every single day. Your soul, has a haq (right) upon it. And one of the haqs (rights) you must fulfill is to give time of reflection to your soul. When you give yourself time to reflect and ponder upon all matters in your life, it will help you to grow. You will not only grow as His better slave, it indirectly it helps you to grow to be a better version of yourself and better person to the people around you.

There are many ways of how you can do reflections but my personal favourite is definitely by doing the tadabbur Quran. Nothing is more fun than doing the tadabbur of the Quran. Ever since I started learning to do the tadabbur of the Quran, I enjoy learning more about the book of Allah. I wrote a book about my relationship

with the Quran in my first book. I shared on how you can do the tadabbur of the Quran.

If you have never done such an activity, I highly suggest that you start doing it soonest. Reading the Quran itself gives a feeling of ease and calmness to our heart. If you added tadabbur, in which you reflect from each story, du'a, and reminder from the Quran, you will be amazed. Your life just becomes so purposeful. The more you learn the Quran, the more you will enjoy making du'a and build your relationship with Allah SWT.

As I learned more about the Quran, I began to understand clearly why the prophet SAW left us with two things; the Quran and Sunnah. We are well aware that the Quran is a manual book for us. Honestly, if you studied the Quran deeply, you can see that it is not just a 'manual'.

It is a book of 'everything' where you can find anything from motivational phrases to reminders to guidelines; they are all in there. You can obtain all these precious gems only by doing the tadabbur of the Quran. You will get to know more about Allah and fall in love even harder with Him. It is said that the way Allah SWT speaks to you is through the Quran and the way you speak to Allah SWT is through your du'as.

Go pick up your Quran now, read the Quran tafseer, and begin your baby steps in getting to know Allah SWT through the Quran. You can also use the same method as well through learning the hadith of The Prophet SAW. There are plenty of hadiths that talk about the greatness of Allah SWT and His beauty. But, do remember to learn from an authorized teacher or authentic sources. Do ask around if you do not understand and seek for clarification.



The more you get to know Allah SWT, the better your relationship will be with Him. We ask Allah SWT to put barakah in our daily activities and may reciting and learning the Quran be the things we do every day, ameen.

So, to nurture our relationship with Allah SWT, it is advisable that we do self-reflection. What exactly is self-reflection? It is the time that you dedicate to reflect on your doings and behaviour daily. I have been doing this for a couple of years and the results are nothing but amazing. I am a heavy thinker and I think a lot at times - it is really damaging to myself and my mental health.

When I was first introduced to self-reflection activity, I was very pleased. I got to see all my strengths and weaknesses clearly. During the time I practise self-reflection, I was able to accept myself fully and embrace all

my flaws. Then, I start doing more self reflections, especially in shaping myself to be a better servant of Allah SWT. Whenever I make du'a and it takes so long for my du'a to be answered, I will do my self reflections and set in my mind that Allah SWT answers du'a in His best ways and not mine because I do not know what is best for me.

I usually do my self-reflection at the end of every evening. I will sit down; take one long deep breath and breathe out; have a moment of silence and give reflections to myself. I will ask and answer some of these questions to myself.

How was my day?

What were the things I did that were beneficial for myself?

What were the things that I listened to today?

How does my daily activity help to improve my relationship with Allah SWT?

What are the aayah that I've read from the Quran today?

How do I feel about it?

What were my emotions today?

How do I show my gratefulness to Allah SWT?

How were my actions towards His creations today?

How do I celebrate myself?

How do I give appreciation to myself and the

creations of Allah SWT?

These are some of the questions I ask myself every single day, but do not worry or feel obliged to only go through these ones. You can play round and be creative with the questions that suit you best and come out with your own set of questions. You may want to create questions that are even more personal to the event of the day. Try it out, pen down your thoughts and feelings as you answer them. I notice, the more self-reflection I do everyday, the easier it gets to curate my du'a because I am clear of what I want.

Self reflections really help to keep me grounded. It helps to remind me that I am a tiny creature of Allah SWT and that I am not capable of doing anything except what that Allah has intended for me. Try it out and see how it

brings good changes in you, inshaallah.

### ***iii. Writing Gratitude List***

Last but not least, my most favourite activity in trying to nurture my relationship to be close to Allah SWT is by writing gratitude lists. Studies have found that people who consciously count their blessings and writing them down tend to be happier and less depressed. It helps us to unshackle ourself from toxic emotions. It certainly takes some time to see the changes in our life, but studies showed that writing gratitude lists has lasting effects on the brain in a positive way. It helps to build a positive mind and energy in ourself and affects all our daily routines in a good way.

When I first learned about gratitude lists, I thought it was something difficult. I kept on writing down the same

things that I was grateful for every single day and the activity bored me. To be honest, I did not really know what were the things I wanted to be thankful for. Probably the heart was so hardened that I could not see the things I owned were all gifts from Allah SWT. Still, I wanted to be a good servant so I tried opening my heart, I began to think outside the box and looked at things in a bigger perspective. I kept writing it every single day even though I was thankful for the same things and to my surprise, day after it gets better and the list just gets longer.

The more I write each day, the more I am aware of the gifts He has given me. Allah literally provides me everything in my life and I was the one lacking in giving gratitude to Him.

*And [remember] when your Lord proclaimed, 'If you*

*are grateful, I will surely increase you [in favor]; but if you deny, indeed, My punishment is severe.'*

{Ibrahim:7}

Allah mentioned the aayah above in the Quran and this aayah, has never failed to amaze and at the same time remind me to be grateful to Him. The more we say thanks to Allah SWT, the more He will provide us and not just in material forms but also in spiritual. When the heart is yearning to know Allah and be close to Him, He opens up for us to seek knowledge. He fills us with things that are beneficial and raises our rank, stages by stages. He pulls us closer to Him, and help us be detached from what is not beneficial and finally be attached to Him, The One and Only Lord.

Six years ago, I did not really understand or learn the

Deen. I did not know what were the things that I wanted to include in my du'a to Allah. Six years have passed by and I have learned so much, and here I am writing a book about my experience talking to Him.

When Allah SWT mentioned the more that we are grateful, the more that we will get in return- the "more" that He gives me is my reliance towards Him, and I am really thankful for that. I learn to rely on Allah SWT for every single thing, even on things that are impossible, or do not make sense. This reliance grows bigger and better as I learn to let go and let God. Everyday I keep reminding myself in all circumstances, I should go to Him first and last every single time.

I hope that you are able to see that in this life, you do not need anyone else; you just need Allah SWT. I hope as

you do your gratitude list, you find this love for Allah SWT that will grow bit by bit. Don't get me wrong. When I mentioned you only need Allah SWT, does not mean you have to cut the ties between people and live alone.

What I meant was, Allah is The One who controls every single thing in this life including the people you have in your life – they are from Allah.

Hence, why we must try our best to please Allah SWT and He will do the rest for us. Sometimes, you feel like you are so down and you need someone to help you. The truth is you actually do not. The One you need is Allah SWT and the way Allah SWT shows His love and signs is by sending to you the person that you think you need in the first place. Allah SWT puts this person in your life to help you. Isn't Allah SWT the best?

So go and start writing.

Write about everything, write about what is in your heart. Pour it out to Allah SWT, lift the burden in your head and let this gratitude list activity give you ease in the mind. Grab a piece of paper and a pen, start writing, "Alhamdulillah Ya Allah I am thankful for....", look around you, what are you grateful for? Write it down.

As you write and you feel like crying, let it be. Cry. Cry to Allah SWT and let those tears be the witness of your thankfulness to Allah SWT. Do not wait for another minute to express your gratitude to Allah SWT. You may not have tomorrow, but you have now.

Inshaallah, through the gratitude list activity, you will find a place in your heart to keep on loving Allah SWT and may the love grow immensely. I ask Allah to put in us a

feeling to keep on relying to Him. A feeling that is always humble, and in need of Allah SWT every single day of our daily life.

May with that we continue to find comfort in relying upon Him, inshaallah, ameen.

## *How to build a lifestyle of always talking to Allah SWT*

**A**lhamdulillah in the previous chapters, we have discussed about removing the barrier and how we can try to connect to Allah SWT. Now I want to share with you how you can include du'a as part of your lifestyle every single day. By now, I hope you have already unlearned the concept that du'a is something you have to do only after prayer but that can be done anytime, anywhere, at any situation and you can talk to Allah literally about anything.

You do not have to worry if your du'a includes no bombastic words, whether it sounds poetic or melodious but rather just be comfortable with yourself in making du'a to Allah. As you talk to Him, focus on giving your whole sincerity (ikhlas) and feel the deep connection between you and Allah SWT.

## **Turn Du'a Into Habit**

So how do we make this a habit? Whatever important things that we do daily, we need to turn them into a habit. By making it a habit, then only we will be doing things consistently.

For example, brushing our teeth. We brush our teeth everyday by using toothpaste, right? There is no way we brush our teeth using the shampoo instead because

shampoo is known to be used to wash the hair. By logic, we will definitely use the toothpaste to brush our teeth.

The same goes for du'a. For you to be able to be in istiqomah, you need to do it the right way and set in your mind that du'a is part of your life and it is something that we do consistently everyday. When we do things in the right order, it is easy to maintain until it becomes a habit and a daily routine. Thus when you finally understood the concept at making du'a, you would not feel like it is a burden but rather, a joyful moment you look forward to everyday.

## **Start Everything With Du'a**

To make du'a as part of our lifestyle, firstly we must get rid of the idea that du'a can only be made at certain

times. We have discussed before that du'a is an everyday connection to Allah SWT like the Wi-Fi connection. Du'a is not something that we recite occasionally or at a certain time only. Though they are special times and occasions to make certain du'as that we learned from the Sunnah, we are also free to make any other du's that we find relevant and significant because a du'a is a conversation with Allah SWT.

In everything that we do, we start with du'a. For example, as you wake up, you recite du'a. You praise Allah SWT. You say thank you to Him for giving you another day to live. When you are putting on your clothes, you say thank you to Allah for granting you nice clothes because there are many people out there who might not have anything to wear. You know how sometimes people complain about how they have nothing to wear

eventhough they have a wardrobe full of clothes while some people only have two or three clothes that they use repetitively. So we want to thank Allah SWT for that. From there, we make du'a while we are putting on our clothes.

As we go out of the house we thank Allah SWT that we have a job that we can attend to because some people are struggling to find jobs. Before we eat, we say "Bismillahirrahmanirrahim" and we say "Alhamdulillah" after we finish our meal. We thank Allah SWT for giving us the opportunity to eat because there are people who are struggling to eat because they are ill or bedridden. Some of them even have to take food through tubes connected to their bodies. So, make du'a an important matter that you do as you live every single day. But, how do we turn it into a habit?



So we build this habit step by step. Take baby steps, and do not rush into your du'a. Do not turn du'a into such a complicated thing. See it as a very simple thing and utter simple words that you can use to express your feelings towards Allah SWT. Like what we discussed just now – when you wake up in the morning, when you eat, when you receive good news, when you receive bad news, when you are struggling with something. Make those moments, moments that you connect to Allah SWT and say something towards Him.

## **Make Du'a In A Language You Are Comfortable With**

Secondly, you can turn this into a habit by uttering words and sentences in a language that you usually use in your daily life. Do not use words that you are not used to

and are difficult for you when having to describe certain situations or moments that you have gone through. Make it simple so that you can instantly connect with whatever that you say.

## **Enjoy Your Moments With Allah**

Thirdly, is for you to just enjoy the moments of talking to Allah. Express your feelings wholeheartedly. If you feel like smiling even though you are alone, smile. If you feel like you need to cry, you cry it out. If you feel like you need to be expressive about it, let it out. Just do that so you will understand that the feeling, that Allah SWT has given to you is something that you have to acknowledge and celebrate. It is not for you to suppress or put yourself in the position where you cannot recognise or appreciate the feelings you have.

That is how I do it. I always take my moments of talking to Allah SWT as something that I really enjoy. Even though I am going to tell Allah SWT about something that is stressing me out, or about something that has broken my heart or made me sad, it is the moment that I look forward to. I know that Allah SWT listens tentatively, and I know that Allah SWT pays attention to everything that I am going to say and I know that He appreciates all the effort that I have given.

You know the feeling when someone gives full attention while you speak? You know how you tend to be expressive while you speak when someone gives you full attention? That is how I feel. I am not comparing Allah SWT to a human being but if a human being can give you such attention, just imagine Allah SWT gives an infinite level of attention to us. Knowing that my du'a matters to

Allah SWT makes me always so excited to make du'a to Him.

Most of the time, I find myself feeling more connected to Allah SWT in my du'a when I am experiencing moments of despair and breakdowns. I guess most of us connect more easily to Him when we are going through moments of hardships and tests in life. I remember this one time when I was completely sad and heartbroken over a very depressing matter. I remember crying my eyes out till they became swollen and my body felt numb.

But I kept on repeating verbally, "Ya Allah, Ya Allah, Ya Allah". I was making du'a in my sujood position, and as I was crying, I said to Allah SWT, "Ya Allah I am not strong. I am weak. I need You now, I need You with me so

that I can get through this. Ya Allah nothing that ever happens in this life is by mistake, I know what I'm currently going through is something that is for my own good, and I know this is all by Your knowledge and You will make me better.”

I kept on making that du'a till I ended up sleeping on the prayer mat. I remember crying it out till I have no energy to cry anymore. At that time, it kind of felt like that was my last day to live. But Allah SWT truly never left my side, for I am still living till this moment. I always wonder where do I get the courage to keep on living? Then I remember Allah SWT, in my life, I have Allah Al Jabbar, The One who restores everything, completely. Even when you are at the verge of giving up, Allah always restore hope and strength for us to keep going on. Isn't He lovely?

This has become a habit because whatever I do everyday, I will just express my feelings to Allah SWT. When I wake up, I will say “Alhamdulillah, thank you Allah for giving me another day to live. For giving me another day to be a good servant, to correct myself, to make taubah.”

If I went for lunch and I got to eat something that was really good, I will say, “Ya Allah, thank you so much for giving me lunch that is very tasty, very nice. I got my favourite part of the chicken, and everything is so perfect, with the taste. Ya Allah thank you so much for giving me a tongue that tastes all the goodness of the food, subhanallah”

Sometimes when I drive, I will tell Him things that has happened in my day. Sometimes it can be a request.

Sometimes it is just me pouring out my feelings. How am I feeling, what am I thinking right at the moment?

Sometimes, you have so much in your mind, you just want to talk to someone. You just want to let it out. I find that everytime I am alone- just me and Allah- it is the best time for me to talk about everything to Allah SWT.

## **How To Make The Time For Du'a**

Other questions that sometimes people ask me would be about the time allocation of my du'a making. Most people know that I write a lot of du'a lists, they sometimes wonder how I manage the time.

“You have so many du'a, when do you actually read it? How do you divide it? How do you do it?”

Subhanallah, I have a lot of du'a because I think there

is so much to ask. One thing that I want to remind again, is that du'a does not have to be made only after prayers. Du'a is something you can do anywhere and at anytime. You can speak to Allah anytime you want and Allah listens. There is no barrier, there is no off-day, and you can continuously talk to Allah SWT every single day. So how do I do it?

Before I share with you how I do it, I want to share some of the best times that we can make du'a. First, we can make du'a during our prayer, in our solah. What are the common du'as that we say in our prayer?

For example, when we recite Surah Al-Fatihah. When we perform our prayer, we say, “Iyyaka na'budu wa iyyaaka nasta'iin. Ihdinassirotol mustaqim.” These aayahs ask Allah SWT to guide us to the straight path. That is

actually a du'a. There are a lot of other du'as during our prayer like the aayahs we recite during our sujood and ruku', where we are actually reciting du'a praising Allah SWT. We say Allahuakbar, we say subhanallah wabihamdih. We say a lot of du'as in our prayer. So, that is one part of the time we make du'a.

Secondly is when we make dhikr. When we make dhikr, we are also uttering du'a because dhikr is remembrance of Allah SWT. What are the types of remembrance that we give? For example when we do our morning adhkar, we say "Astaghfirullah" 400 times and we say "Subhanallah" 400 times. So this is dhikr, this is remembrance of Allah and we are in a position remembering Allah SWT.

I do not know how many of you are very familiar with

Al-Ma'thurat, which is another compilation of dhikr and du'as. Morning and evening adhkar are my favourites because you can go through the du'a in the morning and evening and they are very beautiful. Allah SWT has already taught us through the Prophet SAW what are the du'as that we have to recite and if you go through the meanings of the du'a, you will be amazed, Subhanallah. Allah knows exactly what are the things we might go through; that He made in such a way the du'as that we can utter to Him, subhanallah.

The rest of the time is during the part of mustajab du'a. I want to share with you some of the time for the mustajab du'a. One of the times I really like is the last part of the night. I really like tahajjud prayer, and if you are struggling with your tahajjud, you can try to wake up at least thirty minutes before your Fajr prayer and still get

the best time of your tahajjud. I will include in my notes what are the times that Allah SWT mentioned in the Quran about waking up at night.

There is a hadith that was narrated by Abu Umamah. It was said:

‘O Messenger of Allah, which supplication is most likely to be listened to?’ He said: ‘(During) the last part of the night, and at the end of the obligatory prayers.’

And then Abu Huraira reported Allah’s Messenger SAW as saying: Our Lord, the Blessed and the Exalted, descends every night to the lowest heaven when one-third of the latter part of the night is left, and says: “Who supplicates Me so that I may answer him? Who asks Me so that I may give to him? Who asks Me forgiveness so that I may forgive him?”

I particularly really like this one because I remember when learning, my teacher said from Imam Syafie RA who said, that a du’a that you made during tahajjud is a du’a that goes straight to Allah. It’s like an arrow that goes straight to its point. So one of the times that we want to make du’a is during tahajjud prayer.

Another time that I really like, and I try my very best to make du’a during this time is between the adhan and the iqamah.

Annas (RA) reported that the Messenger of Allah SAW said the supplication made between the adhan and iqamah is never rejected. This hadith is narrated by Abu Dawud and At-Tarmizi. I really like what Prophet SAW said.

Anas (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

*The Messenger of Allah SAW said: “The supplication made between the Adhan and the Iqamah is never rejected.”*

[Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi]

However, I think most of us do not really appreciate that time to make du’a, because we are busy doing other things and not paying attention. The prophet SAW reminded us that the du’a that we make between the adhan and the iqamah is never rejected, subhanallah. These are the times that you want to give attention to. You want to take the opportunity to make du’a during this time so that we will get the khayr or the blessings during this mustajab du’a time.

Another one that I really like is during sujood. It was narrated from Abu Hurairah RA, that the Messenger of

Allah (SAW) said, the closest that a person can be to his Lord, The Mighty and The Sublime is when he is prostrating, so increase your supplication then. Can you imagine that we are praying five times a day every single day, and these are the obligatory prayers, right?

So, approximately we make at least 34 times of sujood in a day. That is already 34 chances for you to make du’a. So why are we worrying about finding the time to make our du’a, just because our du’a list is so long? We have 34 times to make du’a and we can break our du’a into these 34 times as we are making sujood, enough and plenty of time for us to make du’a, inshaallah.

I hope that you have gotten some ideas by now regarding suitable times that you can make du’a before I share with you how I break down my time of making du’a.

As we are discussing how do we make du'a and the times we make du'a - I know that we have a long list of things that we would want to ask from Allah SWT. Sometimes we do not have much time to read especially after prayers, because most of us are working. When we get home for Maghrib and Isya, we have to entertain our family members, entertain the kids with their dinner and their homework and the list goes on. So of course you do not have much time to make du'a.

Therefore, make use of the times suggested above to make du'a. Include your du'a during those times. I will also list out some other times that is mustajab for you to make du'a, InshaAllah. I hope sharing the schedule of how I do it will be beneficial for you. If you cannot do all, it is alright because sometimes I lose track of my own schedule too. Remember that in the sight of Allah SWT, the most

important part is that we actually try our best and the result does not really matter but the effort is the one that Allah SWT counts.

As for me, when are the times that I make du'a? Usually, I start my day around 5 a.m in the morning. I will do my taubah and my tahajjud prayers in the morning and that is when I recite some of my du'as. During my early morning du'a, most of the time it involves conversations of how I want to be a good slave to Allah SWT. I usually tell Him what I want to become, I talk to Him about my house in Jannah, and I seek for forgiveness. These are all the things that I usually talk about in the morning. These are the du'a that I make during my tahajjud time. Sometimes I do share with Allah SWT about my book proposals, my work, my businesses, things that I want to achieve, my dream du'a and others.



I remember my teacher once said, that if you have not woken up for tahajjud and make du'a for something that you really want, it means you do not really want it. Usually, I will do that in the morning. After my tahajjud prayer, I will take the time to recite the Quran and then I will have thirty minutes to one hour of a moment of silence.

This moments of silence is where I sit down and make reflections. Like the one I mentioned in the previous chapter, this is when I make reflections to become closer to Allah SWT. This is the time that I will sit down and I ask myself how I become better. What are the things that I did the day before that I want to leave, and how can I do better today? What can I give more to the society? What can I do more as a slave of Allah SWT?

After my moment of silence, I will write down my gratitude list. This is also part of the things that I really like. I write down my gratitude list and along the way, I will write down some du'as. I will tell Allah SWT about the things that I want to achieve and so forth. I like to write down my du'as because I will become focused. I know what are the things that I want and I will have full enthusiasm when I recite the du'a.

I do not want to go into my moment of du'a and just ask Allah to give me the best or just give me whatever that I think is good. I do not want to go into a moment of making a du'a to Allah aimlessly. I usually write down the du'a. How do I write them down? I list out all the main points first and then I will do elaborations. Then, I will write down the du'a properly with the names of Allah SWT, the shalawat and others.

Then the rest of the day, I just pick up moments that I go through to stay connected to Allah SWT. Be conscious of Allah SWT. Whatever that I am doing - before putting on my clothes, when I am eating something, when I am purchasing stuff, I will ensure I make du'a to Allah SWT first.

Sometimes I will go and pray istikharah for it and it has become a routine. I try to commit to one time during the mustajab du'a so that I can commit to that at least once a day. I try to make that as a habit and do it consistently every single day. There are many times in a day for a mustajab du'a. We just need to choose one suitable time and be consistent with it. That is how I do it and before I go to bed, my favourite part would be talking to Allah SWT.

Before I go to bed, I would just remember and reflect again throughout my day. The things that I go through and thank Allah SWT for whatever nikmat (blessings) and whatever challenges that I face the whole day and what have I learned from that. Hopefully, with all the reflections, I seek forgiveness from Allah SWT and ask Allah SWT to give me another chance to live another day tomorrow so I can better myself.

I will always tell Allah SWT that if this is going to be the last night that I am here in this world, I ask Allah SWT to accept from me of my deeds, whatever that is not perfect, may Allah SWT perfect it for me. I ask Allah to give strength to my family members to go through the next day knowing that I am no longer in this world. I ask Allah SWT to make my life in the barzakh (hereafter) easy and make my new house as comfortable as how I felt in this

world or maybe much more comfortable inshaallah.

I guess finding the time becomes easy when you realise you making time for Allah SWT. At the end of the day, when we understand that life is all about pleasing Allah SWT, our mind will always come together. Our mind will always have Allah SWT in it, every time.

When we are aware of that, it makes worshipping Allah SWT so much easier than we ever thought. If we understood, if we seek knowledge, if we truly know Allah SWT, if we read the Quran, if we learn and reflect from the hadith, and everything the prophet SAW had taught us, we will eventually understand that Islam is truly a simple and easy religion. Allah SWT has never burdened us with something that we cannot bear, and even if we go through something that is hard or difficult, we know that Allah

SWT is always there to help us go through whatever that is needed, inshaallah.

May Allah SWT make it easy for us to continue remembering Him, may Allah SWT give us a time in our life that is full of Barakah, so that we constantly remember Him and we ask Allah SWT to make our tongue light to always utter good words and make du'a to Him. We will continue to the next chapter, alhamdulillah.

PART 3: INSPIRATIONAL  
STORIES ABOUT DU'A

Du'a Story 1 : *The Du'a That Was  
Answered Within Seconds*

So this is a du'a story that really inspires me to keep on making du'a. There are days that I am feeling down or I do not feel like making du'a or whenever I feel like my du'a is taking too much time to be answered, I will always remember this story to boost up my confidence and my faith in Allah SWT.

The title of this story is 'The du'a That Was Answered Within Seconds'.

Alhamdulillah, somewhere around 2018 I had the opportunity to run my 'Tag Your Quran Workshop' with some of the important people from Astro (a private broadcasting company). From that session, Alhamdulillah, the TV programme 'Quran Tag With Ayesha' was produced. The five episodes of the first seasons were aired on Astro Oasis and the following two seasons were aired on Naura Channel 125.

I remember meeting my producer for the first season. We met for the first time and we discussed about the TV programme. Alhamdulillah, with all the discussions, we managed to squeeze in a one-day shoot for all the five episodes.

The episodes were aired during Ramadan and alhamdulillah during Eid (Hari Raya) that year, everytime I went for Hari Raya gatherings, I would receive a lot of comments. People have noticed me as the Quran Tag girl from TV. I remembered being stopped by one of the aunties and she shared that she watched the programme and she learned so much. She was showing me her notes. I remember I sent a message to my producer thanking her for the opportunity that she gave me, for being able to be in the programme.

Somewhere in August 2018, one night before I went to bed, I scrolled the feed at my Instagram and I found a poster regarding a spiritual retreat (Faithcation) with Ustadha Yasmin Mogahed in Tiara Rasa Janda Baik. At that time my heart was pumping very excitedly. I was very happy and excited because I really like Ustadha Yasmin

Mogahed. Even in my du'a book I would always write down that I want to be the next Ustadha Yasmin Mogahed, the Malaysia version.

I saw that programme and I was really excited and I remembered texting my best friend and told her this is one of the things that we really have to go together. We always go to any Ustadha Yamsin Mogahed's events and the first time we met was at one of her events as well.

To me, it is kind of a way for us to celebrate the friendship. I told her that we really needed to go to this retreat because it was going to be really amazing and it was going to be 3 days and 2 nights at a very amazing place and I was really excited about it.

However, when I look at the ticket price for the retreat, it was nearly a one month's salary. So, I was very

worried thinking of where I was going to get the money to go and join this retreat. One thing about me is that, every single time I see any classes or any talks, posters of any upcoming events, I will always say a du'a, a very simple du'a. I will always say, "Ya Allah, please choose me to be in this gathering. In a gathering remembering You and to learn about You. So please choose me to be in this gathering".

I really wanted to go. I was really happy seeing the poster but I know my challenges was money. I just did not shut off the idea because I was very sure I have Allah SWT to help me to be there. Allah SWT would grant a way for me to be at the gathering, at the event. Before I went to bed, I just casually talked to Allah. I said, "Ya Allah, I just saw this event, a retreat with Ustadha Yasmin Mogahed. It is at Tiara Rasa Janda Baik. I've been wanting to see that

place. I really want to go, I really want to learn. I want to be there. Ya Allah please choose me.”

I told Allah, “But my challenges is money. I wouldn’t have enough to make the payment but Ya Allah, I have some plans on how do I want to get that money and I’m going to need Your help to materialise my plan.”

So I said, “Ya Allah, tomorrow is Friday and I am going to write down my du’a properly. Ya Allah please help me to reach whatever amount that I need to go for the retreat.”

So I went to bed, slept as usual and all, and the next morning I woke up for my Fajr prayer. After my Fajr prayer, I did some house chores, and I was off to my private session gathering. I was late at that time, so I was not able to write my du’a in the morning. As I was in the

car driving, I talked to Him again. I said, “Ya Allah, I have some plans on how do I want to achieve that amount money.”

At that time I was still sewing quran covers for I was unemployed. I said, “Ya Allah, I need help for You to bring in eight people for the next 10 days, every single day, to order my Quran covers. I know how much I can sew a day. So I just need eight people for the next 10 days.” Inshaallahu Taala, with me having that much of order, I would be able to pay for the retreat. I had some savings too. So I was really excited. At that time I was driving so I was telling Allah, that after I was done with my private session, I would go home straightaway and write my du’a and took the golden hours opportunity of making du’a in Friday, which is after Asr’ prayer to Maghrib.

Then I went to the hotel where I met my student for the private session, and as I was having the session with her, suddenly my phone rang. When I saw the name on the screen, it was the producer for first Quran Tag program. So in my heart was “Subhanallah, probably she is calling me for Quran Tag Show Season 2”.

I went to the toilet and answered the phone, and she was telling me, “Yeah Ayesha, I called you to congratulate you for the programme. It was good, the feedbacks and all.”

So I told her, “Yeah SubhanAllah. I did message you.”

She was telling me that their company would be expanding. They were going to do a learning retreat and the first one they were going to have would be a retreat with Ustadha Yasmin Mogahed at Tiara Rasa Janda Baik.

I told her I saw the poster last night. I asked if there were available seats because I would want to register. She said they were available and to just let them know if I was interested.

Then she asked me, “We were thinking of having your ‘Tag Your Quran’ workshop at the event. However, you don’t have to do the whole set of workshop, because that is going to take one whole day. We prefer you just do some sort of an introduction of your Quran tag.” She said this was going to be a good platform for me to promote my service because people who came to the retreat were not only from Malaysia. Some of them flew over from London, from Doha, from other parts of the world too. She said this would be a good opportunity for me to promote my service.



At that moment of time, I thought, “Oh Subhanallah. If I am not able to attend for 3 days 2 nights, one hour and a half session would be great. I can still be there. I can still see the place, I can still be in the ambiance together with Ustadha Yasmin.”

I thought that was already a great idea. I was very happy when they invited me for that session. At that moment of time I was also thinking, “Yeah, it would be a good way for me to promote my service.”

I was already so pumped up and I said, “Alhamdulillah, Inshaallahu Taala, I think I can do that. I can plan something so that we can conduct the mini version of Tag Your Quran Workshop.”

Then, suddenly she added, “So, Ayesha, if you have made up your mind, and you agree to join us, as a token of

appreciation, we are going let you stay for the whole retreat , free of charge, like being sponsored. On top of that, we would pay you for your session.”

I was so shocked. I was very quiet at that time but tears were running down my face. I was crying at that time because my mind kept on thinking about that du’a I was telling Allah SWT last night, then this morning while I was driving, and how Allah SWT was granting it, now, at that moment when we were having that phone call. I just kept quiet but I was crying till the producer on the other end asked, “Subhanallah, Ayesha are you still there? Do you confirm you’re attending the retreat?”

I said, “Yes subhanallah, can I come back to you this evening? I just need to ask permission from my husband and I would get back to you.”

Then she said, “Yes, no problem.”

We ended the conversation and I remembered asking my student to give me some moment. I made sujood to Allah SWT, thanking Him for granting my du’a, for answering my du’a in a very, very short time.

I remember telling Allah SWT that my challenge was money. I did not have enough money to attend; I did not have enough money to make payment but Allah SWT was telling me in a way “If you don’t have the money, I’ll make you go for free. I’ll make them sponsor you. I’ll make them pay you too for your session.”

I was feeling so blessed, subhanallah. That du’a was answered in seconds, and it was a very magical moment for me. I ended up going to the retreat. I had so much great time learning from Ustadha Yasmin and I ended up

having more new students after I came back from the retreat. Alhamdulillah.

That du’a story reminds me that we have plans but Allah has better plans for us. At the end of the day, after all the sessions that I had there, and some other TV shootings, I ended up being paid twice more than whatever I should be receiving. I ended up being paid twice more than the amount I should come up with to pay for the retreat. That was really amazing, subhanallah.

I really remember that story until today and every single time I share it with other people, it always brought tears to my eyes because every time I feel like giving up in making du’a, I will always remember that particular moment when I made a du’a in a very short time and it was just a talk to Allah, not even a forward du’a. I was not

really raising hands or making du'a in a proper way with proper words. I was just telling Allah my dreams and my hopes to be there.

Allah SWT then granted it just like that. What I always learned from this story is to never give up in making du'a and never think that there is something that is impossible for Allah SWT to make it happen. Nothing in this life is impossible. Everything is possible because we have Allah SWT. He is the One who constantly listens tirelessly and constantly looking and watching at us and He always wants the best for us.

So, keep on making du'a to Allah SWT and we ask Allah SWT to continue to inspire us to make du'a and ask from Him. May Allah continue to grant our du'a in the best of time that is best for us. Inshaallahu Taala.

## *Du'a Story 2 : Allah Will Help You In Your Pursuit of Knowledge, If It Is Done For Him*

**A**bu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said:

*Whoever travels a path in search of knowledge, Allah makes it easy for him a path to Paradise.*

(Source: Sahih Muslim 2699, grade: Sahih)

I would like to share a story I once received from one of my followers, Sister Anis Syazwani, about the dua'a that she made.

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Hi there Sister Ayesha. When I first followed you and read all your sharings on the concept of 'Talking to Allah (TTA)', I started to wonder if it was something that we can easily do. Is the concept even permissible?

Because truth be told, I was one of those people who would only make du'a to Allah after I was done with my prayers, and I realised that during those moments, I only uttered words to Allah in an autopilot motion. I knew that my mouth was moving but I did not feel any connection or truly felt what I was saying to Allah. I said that I would put Allah first in my du'a but I actually was not, for I still put

other people and their needs before Allah.

That was when I realised that I wanted to become closer to Allah, I wanted to know how to please Allah, how to be the person that is loved by Allah. So I began to practice the TTA concept you taught. Wallahi! I began to notice many positive improvements in my life.

Every day I will TTA, I will tell Him about things that are happening in my day and it seems that everyday, there is always a blessing or favour that Allah will give to me. The thing is, I know He has been giving me blessings and favours even back then, but I have never expressed my thankfulness to Him properly, I never took the time to fully appreciate everything He has given me.

But, once I begin to express my gratitude to the best of my ability, Maa Shaa Allah, the blessings, be it big or

small, keep on coming, one after another.

I remembered talking to Allah, letting Him know that I really wanted to attend your talk, especially the one about du'a because I wanted to improve my relationship with Him. Just like that, I saw your advertisement about the event that you would be organising ('Raising Hands With Full Faith'). I immediately thanked Allah but when I checked my bank account, I only had RM85 when your event fee was RM65. I put my faith and tawakal in Allah because I really wanted to attend it but I was unemployed at that time.

I said to Allah, "It's okay. I am doing this for Allah because I want to be closer to you. You are the provider of rizq. So I will rely on you for rizq." Not long after that, I was offered a job. Even though it was a temporary job, it

was still rizq from Allah to me. Alhamdulillah.

After I had registered for the event, I began to feel nervous because I would be going there alone and it was a place that I was unfamiliar with. I considered asking my friend to tag along but I was afraid she might not want to come because it was a paid event and the fee was a bit beyond the budget for us students.

I did not even talk about my worries in detail to Allah. I just wondered about it silently in my heart, but He truly knows. Alhamdulillah, just like that, I saw the announcement that a boutique wanted to sponsor a few seats to the event for people who could not afford to attend it. I immediately informed my friend and she was able to secure a sponsored seat. Alhamdulillah, Allah is truly, TRULY kind and I will always be amazed by this

experience that happened in my life.

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My response:

Inshaallahu Taala, as someone who conducts these sharing sessions, I personally receive a lot of stories like this. Each and every time, these stories are really empowering and really move me to keep on bettering my relationship with Allah SWT and through these people's sharings, I learned so much and it will always remind me of how great Allah SWT is.

I love how this first story began by recognising what she was lacking regarding her issue with Allah SWT. She recognised that as she was making du'a every single day, it was something that she just uttered but she did not have

the connection between that du'a, and the words that she said to Allah SWT. Later on, at the end of the story, when then she wrote about how she casually talked to Allah SWT when she badly wanted to attend my sharing session. She did not have enough money, and she was just saying to Allah that "It's okay. I want to do it for you and want to be closer to you. So you are The Provider. You are going to provide me with the rizq.

This all started with the intention that she wanted to attend and out of the blue she saw the advertisement and she wanted to register. By the will of Allah SWT, her money was not enough at that time. She kept on having faith to Allah SWT, and not long after that she was offered a job. MasyaAllah. With that she was able to pay for the session.

A lot of the time people think that being able to do something is because of their ability, but think about it again.

You know, even the ability to carry out something, it comes from Allah SWT. So, first and foremost it is very important to set your intention right. In a hadith, where the Prophet SAW said, “Allah says, I am as my servants think (expect) I am. I am with him when he mentions Me. If he mentions Me to himself, I mention Him to myself. If he mentions Me in an assembly, I mention Him in a gathering. If he draws near to me at a hand’s length, I draw near to him at an arm’s length. If he comes to Me walking, I come to him at speed.”

So in our journey to become closer to Allah SWT, it just has to start with a good intention wanting to get to

know Allah better and wanting to be better for Allah SWT.

So the second part from the things that we can learn is tawakkul.

Tawakkul is when we put all our faith and trust in Allah SWT. As the story above goes, the sister mentioned that when she had no resources, she had no means to pay for the event, she kept on going and said, “Ya Allah, I have tawakkul in You. I have full faith in You because I wanted to do this for You. I know that You’re going to provide for me.”

I really love this concept of tawakkul. We do not really know how this is going to happen. How is it that we are going to be able to pay for the session or be able to carry on with whatever that we need to do, but we must have faith that Allah SWT is going to open up a way for us. Just

like prophet Musa AS; he did not know that Allah SWT was going to split the sea into two. He just had tawakkul in Allah SWT. So have tawakkul in Allah SWT. Think the best of Allah SWT and remember that nothing is impossible in the sight of Him. Allah SWT is always able to make the impossible. possible.

That is something that we really need to build on in making du'a to Allah SWT. It is to have faith in Allah SWT that He is going to grant it and He is going to give it in the best form that is good for us, InsyaAllahu Taala.

Number three, one of the things that we can learn from this story as well is that Allah SWT will always make way or open up a path for those who really want to get to know Him, who want to learn about Him. Do not ever feel like you will not be given a chance to be better. When you

set the intention right, when you have full faith in Allah SWT, He would definitely make your path in getting to know Him very, very easy. Subhanallah.

Just like the hadith of the prophet SAW that said;

*“Whoever travels a path in search of knowledge, Allah will make it easy for him the path to paradise.”*

I remember my teacher said that the literal meaning of this hadith is the Jannah in the hereafter but she said there is another meaning that we can also take. The Jannah; the paradise here in this world, what Allah SWT meant is the contentment, the ease that you are feeling when you are seeking the path of searching for Allah SWT. Allah SWT will make it easy and He said that it is also part of Jannah because people in Jannah, always have ease, they are always content, they are always grateful, and they



are always feeling good.

So when you are here in this world, Allah will also give you a little feeling of Jannah, a little feeling of this paradise so that you will always feel at ease in learning and searching for Allah SWT, and seeking for the knowledge of Allah SWT. That is what makes us wanting to keep on learning more, because the ease and peaceful feeling that Allah SWT gives to us.

### Du'a Story 3 : *Allah Will Provide For You If You Just Ask*

Umar said: "I heard the Messenger of Allah SAW say: 'If you were to rely upon Allah with the reliance He is due, you would be given provision like the birds: They go out hungry in the morning and come back with full bellies in the evening.'"

(Hadith grade: Hasan (Darussalam))

English reference : Vol. 5, Book 37, Hadith 4164

Arabic reference : Book 37, Hadith 4303

Here is another inspiring story shared to by by Sister Nadeera, in which she had to wait for her dua'a to be answered:

Hi and Assalamualaikum Sister Ayesha. I would like to thank you for your sharing session regarding the concept of "Talking to Allah". I am currently facing a hard situation. I am working in the property/real estate field.

Previously, every month I would get at least 1 booking and that has always been enough for me even though I did not achieve my target. However last month I did not manage to get any booking. Seeing my colleague closed three to four cases per month has made me really sad and worried to a point it made me wonder why I was not able to secure any rizq for the month.

Everyday in my sujud, every time when it is raining,

I would make du'a to Allah. I would pray, "Ya Allah, please allow me to secure one booking this week." The first week went by with no bookings successfully secured. I kept on praying. Then came the second week with the same situation. I prayed even harder because I remember you once said that Allah listens and He would grant His servant's du'a who prays and pleads to Him.

Then came the third week and still I was not able to close any sale. I was close to giving up but upon remembering your words, I decided not to quit making my du'a and kept on persevering. I kept on making my prayers. Week 4 came with no sales in sight. To me, it was not even about the sale, I would have been happy if I had secured even just one appointment, but even that was hard to reach for me. In the final week, I supposedly had three appointments but all cancelled at the last minute.

I pleaded and prayed in my heart. “Ya Allah, please help me. I just need 1 appointment. Please ya Allah. Pleaseee. Just one.”. Still, when the evening came, nothing arrived. Nothing. I fell. I cried.

I asked Allah, “Ya Allah, have I committed any major sin I didn’t realise before this? Are you punishing me ya Allah?”

It was a time where I was unable to think positively because I had been forcing myself to think positively for over a month.

Then suddenly, an old client from an old colleague of mine contacted me, asking about a potential deal with me.

Then, I broke down. I was so sad and overwhelmed with my emotions. That Allah indeed heard my prayer. I

cried so hard and when I finally took a moment to calm myself, I am reminded again by what you told me. “Do not ever stop making du’a. Allah listens, He ALWAYS LISTENS”.

Now I am working on improving my skills to close a sale. I know and believe that Allah will help. He will.

Because He has never left my side.

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There are three lessons that we can learn from her sharing. First and foremost is the art of waiting for du’a to be answered. As I have mentioned in the previous chapters, we must understand the concept of du’a. Allah SWT is not our genie in a bottle. He does not work in such a way that we can just rub the lamp and Allah will come in

a form that we can see and we can ask for three wishes.

We must understand that Allah SWT, when He grants our du'a, He grants at the best time, and in the best possible way. If you could see the concept of genie in a bottle, he grants whatever that we wishes for and we do not know whether it is going to be good or bad. For example, when Aladdin asked to become a prince, he ended up lying to himself, lying to the princess. At the end of the day, it caused him more trouble. Allah is not like that. The case with Allah is that He only grants the best for us. Even though we have to wait for a really long time, we have to keep on waiting to ask Him, for that is when we build our reliance and we build our faith towards Him.

We must understand that as we make du'a, we do not always get it then and there. For some du'as we have to

wait for quite a long time for them to be granted. For example, some people ask for children and they wait for 10, 20 years. They would either succeed in the next 20 years or none at all.

Like the story of prophet Zakariyya AS. He waited for so long to have children and he was in a position that he was not capable of bearing children. In the Quran, it was described that the wife was also in a position that she was not capable to carry a child. Still, he made that du'a for so long and at the end of the day, after a very long time Allah SWT finally granted his du'a.

In the aayah, there is a du'a that prophet Zakariyya AS made in surah Maryam: aayah 4, where his du'a said, "Ya Allah, indeed my bones have weakened, and my head has filled with white, and never have I been in my

supplication to You, my Lord, unhappy.”

It shows how he had made that du'a for so long. He had made that du'a for many years, metaphorically his bone felt weak and his hair had become grey. Never once he said he was unhappy towards Allah SWT.

We can learn many lessons from the stories of the Prophets in making du'a to Allah SWT. Allah SWT said these stories help us to understand our reliance and full faith towards Allah SWT in making du'a.

The next thing that we can learn is to have perseverance in making du'a. At the end of the day, Allah SWT will provide, but do not give up in making du'a. Just like the sister in the story above when Allah SWT made it possible for a call that she did not expect at the end of the day.

Just like the story of prophet Zakariyya A.S that we can learn from. He waited for so long. At the end of the day, Allah SWT finally gave him children of his own. There is nothing that you want that comes easy.

In order for you to reach to the top, you have to persevere. You have to keep on doing it until you have reached the success level. You do not do it one or twice with the hope that things will change and things will be successful. People have to go through a lot of tests, a lot of phases in life for them to be successful.

Same goes to du'a. Allah SWT answers some du'as in seconds, a very short time but for some it will take some time. It does not mean that Allah SWT does not love you and Allah SWT does not appreciate your du'a. Take it in such a way that Allah SWT misses you, Allah loves

hearing your voice and Allah loves the attitude that you have and He wants to hear more because He is so pleased with what you are doing in your du'a. He is pleased seeing you begging to Him. He really loves that so He wants to continue to listen to that. So it takes a while for Him to grant your d'ua. He wants you to be closer to Him.

When we talk about Allah SWT, He is capable of everything. He can give you then and there but if we look in a position that Allah SWT is so in love with what we utter, and He wants to keep on hearing more because He is As-Sami', we would appreciate the moment of making du'a, because there are more than a billion of people in this world, and Allah recognises your voice. He loves it and He wants to hear it more and more.

The last thing that we can learn apart from

persevering in making your du'a is to always build the faith and build the understanding that Allah listens. A lot of the time, as we make du'a, we think that Allah might not listen, because you think that you have not been a really good slave. I like when the sister said, "Why are you not giving me? Did I commit anything wrong?"

When we make du'a to Allah SWT, it also has to come to our mind that we are progressing in building our relationship with Allah SWT. We cannot be sitting making du'a alone and not fulfilling the haq (rights) of Allah SWT. Probably you are making a lot of du'as but you are missing your prayers, you are dishonest or you lie to people, or you might have hurt someone with your words. As we are making du'a to Allah SWT, we need to also progress in building a good relationships with Allah SWT and the people around us. We need to also progress in our akhlaq,

in our attitude towards Allah. We need to progress in our salah, with our Quran, and with that, it shows the effort that we have in becoming closer to Allah.

Some people just make du'a, and sit around hoping for magic to happen but that is not how things work. That is why I mentioned in my previous chapter, that we must do a lot of reflections because they really help in shaping us to become a better slave towards Allah SWT.

### *Du'a Story 4 : Why Do We Make Du'a to Allah When at the End of The Day He Will Do Things As He Pleases?*

I receive this question way too many times, and I thought I might as well share my answer here. I used to ask the same. What is the point of making du'a if Allah SWT is going to do as He desires? Just like some of you, I once felt giving up in making du'a to Allah SWT because it seemed pointless and it led to nowhere. At the verge of giving up,

Allah SWT showed me the way, lifted me up again and instilled in me hopeful feelings towards Him.

Often we see du'a as a medium to ask, we treat du'a as a solution we go to when nothing else seems to work. We treat Allah SWT like he is somewhat magician full of tricks to fix what we do not want to see or have anymore. Allah SWT is no magician nor genie in the bottle that we call upon when we need Him. Allah is on His own. He does not need us, He is One, He has no partner or children. Allah is the reason we exist in the first place.

In contrast to Him, we are created weak and full of flaws. Allah SWT made us in such a way, we cannot live alone. We need companions and we need the One for us to rely on. Or else, we will be in complete loss and disturbance. Without realizing, we depend on Allah for

everything. From the moment we blink our eyes till they are closed, it is Allah SWT who made it happen for us. Imagine starting your day and you have to find your own source of oxygen without depending on Allah SWT? Unimaginable, right? If we cannot even imagine that to happen, let's not bother in going any deeper. It is entirely not possible.

Hence, du'a is not just talking to Allah SWT to fulfill our request but making du'a to Him is our source of reliance. The need to rely on something is a unique quality Allah SWT made in us. This is why we fear to be lonely or face a broken relationship. Even if we go through those phases, deep down we long to be heard, to be loved. The main cause people went into depression and anxiety is because they do not get the love and affection they need in their heart.



I am not saying that mental health problems can be solved by only making du'a, but I want you to understand that we need Allah SWT to rely on. Through du'a we seek His help to guide us to the right people, the true knowledge and send to us comfort, ease and peace to ourself.

Have you ever felt a moment that everything seems hard and not right, and then you sit down and cry yourself out and say "O'Allah..." and with just that, one or two days later life is completely fine and back to normal again. A source of help that we do not even realise but the ease He put us through because we call upon Him and be attached to Him.

Thus, we need to understand the function of du'a in our life. Du'a is our source of communication with Allah

SWT. The more we speak to Him, the more we will understand about Him. Interestingly, though we cannot see Allah SWT and this relationship we have with Him on the surface looks like a one way relationship, but truly, the most beautiful relationship that ever exists is the one with Him. He cannot be seen but His presence can be felt. No human being is able to create such energy. The more communication you make with Allah SWT the easier it gets to rely on Him for all matter.

Du'a is a mean to change our qadr. Your du'a does change the Qadr of Allah SWT but do understand that even with or without you making du'a, Allah has set your qada, and qadr. Do not lose hope in making du'a to Allah just because you cannot see it being answered the way you want it. Often we compare Allah's attributes to ours. We think we know better but truly we do not.

That is why faith is one of the essentials that make us a believer. To trust the plan of Allah even if it does not coincide with ours and have faith for every thing He made happen. With it comes together blessings, wisdom and reward. Many times we make du'a for the doors of the world but Allah keeps it close for us. We are disappointed not knowing that Allah opens up the door in Jannah for us because there is where He wants us to be eternally.

Last but not least, du'a is also a mean of action and effort. We are taught to make du'a and move towards the direction of our du'a. Du'a is not magic, and we do not make du'a and sit down quietly and see magic happen in our life. Allah SWT has no fairy godmother to be sent to us. We need something, we seek Allah's help and put effort to reach it.

Du'a itself is real work, and we do not make du'a and abandon completely any effort to reach it. We drive the initiative together with the ability and talent Allah SWT has granted us. It is sunnah to make du'a and come out with plans and strategies to make your du'a comes true.

Allah SWT indeed has set for us the food that we eat every day, but if we made du'a and sat in our room waiting for the food to be put in our mouth, would that be possible? We still have to go out of the room, cook the food, move our hands and fingers, and put the food in our mouth and repeat the step until the food is finished.

That my friend is why we have to make du'a eventhough Allah has set everything for us.

## Du'a Story 5 : *My Du'a That I Am Still Praying For And Waiting To Be Answered*

When I was studying in university back then, I applied for the PTPTN study loan. That money was used for studying purposes and alhamdulillah with the help of the study loan, I managed to pay for all my study fees without burdening my parents. But instead of graduating on time, my path was written perfectly better by Allah SWT that I

graduate a year later from my friends. Failing the exam was never part of my plan obviously but of course Allah has planned a better future for me.

After I graduated, I continued my degree in accounting but half way through completing it, I decided to drop out of my studies and learn the deen seriously. I know I was disappointing my parents for being a university drop-out is not easy. I have friends and family who look down on me.

I failed to graduate on time during my diploma years and now I'm quitting my degree? The pressure was hitting me hard at that time. Quitting degree meant it'll be harder for me to be employed in any established company. I mean who would want to hire a university drop-out right?

I later started my online business and alhamdulillah

day by day it became stronger and better. After a few years, I started to receive letters from PTPTN, demanding me to make the payments for my study loan. I panicked and began to feel that adulting is hard and commitments are slowly adding up.

So I started to save up on my money bit by bit, and I remember writing a dua about how I plan to pay my debt monthly. In my dua, I wrote down how much I plan to save from the revenue that I made, and alongside with my du'a, I paired it with the dua from the sunnah:

*“O Allah! Provide me with lawful (Halal) livelihood, adequate to my needs instead of the unlawful (Haram), and make me suffice with Your graces needing nothing from anyone else”*

I recited the dua almost everyday together while

trying to ensure I could keep up the required monthly payment. But by the qadr of Allah, every single month there was always something that came up that led to me failing to save up some money for the loan payment. I was devastated and disappointed.

But I never gave up on making that dua. I kept telling Allah I was worried about having so much unsettled debt and how I needed His help to make the debt settlement easy for me. Years passed by and I still wasn't able to settle my study loan debt. I almost gave up on making my dua, especially when my savings were not increasing and my business was slowly failing. I became more worried than ever.

Months passed by and Ramadhan came. During the holy month I kept on making that same dua regarding the

loan payment. I typed down and printed out the dua because the one I wrote down was so worn out. I was persistent and held up my faith in Allah SWT that this time He will answer my dua and make the process easy for me. I was very sure I was seeing the light out of dark debt hole I was in at that time but who was I kidding? I still wasn't able to settle my debt.

Then new year came and I found myself still struggling with the debt payment. I intended to make that payment but somehow started to give up on making the same dua. I thought I would give it a break for a moment and focus on other duas. A few months after than, my husband and I started a new company and we ran a small business. We were doing so well alhamdulillah, and in a few months, we managed to save up some money for our emergency fund.

At this point of time, I honestly no longer think about the dua. It wasn't that that I didn't remember about the debt at all, but I was so focused on other matters that the debt issue was put on pause for a while.

In one of the months of that year, my husband and I needed to travel overseas as part of our work trip. As we prepared the travelling documents, I somehow became worried that I might be denied traveling due to my unsettled loan. But we proceeded with the plan anyway. That was when I was tested. As we went through the authority check-up, I was being asked to step aside and true enough, as they checked, I still have my loan to be paid. They said they will put me on hold from traveling and only release me for my trip until I make the payment. At that point of time I cried heavily and kept on saying "I'm sorry Allah." I feel ashamed to Him because I felt like

I haven't been talking to Him about this matter in such a long time.

So we went to settle the payment and the best part was the person in charge told me if I paid the loan lump sum, I will get a good discount. It was an initiative by the government to encourage all to make the payment. I agreed and made the lump sum payment with the "emergency" money we had kept for quite some time. Once done, I thank Allah SWT for being so generous, the moment I almost gave up in making dua, there He was, granting it to me.

All the time I failed to save, only because He was going to open a path for my husband and me to start off a new business. The time I always make use of the money I saved up was meant to be used that time but Allah SWT

repaid it with multifold of profit that we made in our new startup business. And the plan to pay the debt monthly failed miserably only because He planned to let me settle it lump sum and on top of it I got a great discount for that.

It was du'a that I made for years and nearly gave up uttering it, but indeed Allah has planned it perfectly for me. That night in prayer I thanked Allah SWT so many times, I kept on saying sorry because I doubted my dua. Allah SWT is very generous, not only He kept His promise in granting my du'as, He gave together double blessing in it for all the years I waited for my du'a to be granted. This incident has taught me to be patient and keep having good thoughts of Allah SWT. Allah SWT answered our duas in the best of times but sometimes we are so easy to pass judgements to Allah SWT thinking we are so much better than Him.

This year has been five years since I first made the du'a to carry a baby of my own in my womb, but I have learned to not give up. Though it has been a long time, I keep on receiving great blessings I have never imagined I will ever receive. I believe in His plans for me. I believe every du'a that is delayed is for my own good and not the other way around. Every time that my du'as are left unanswered, Allah SWT has answered it in various other forms so I get to shift my mind from it for a while and focus on the amazing gift He has blessed me with. Ya Allah this is why I love You so much!

Remember dear readers, Allah SWT is just and fair. He will never leave us alone in our dua journey. Trust Allah SWT and have firm belief that sooner or later, Allah SWT will grant your du'as. These are two sayings from great scholars that I hold firmly to myself and I will always

remind myself when things are not going my way, only because better things are coming from Allah SWT. And I hope these words give you comfort too.

“If the Believers could see how Allah was planning and managing their affairs, behind the scenes, then your heart would melt out of love for Him” - Imam ibn al Qayyim

“If we had perfect power to determine our destinies, and perfect vision to see the future and know what is best for us we would choose exactly the fate that Allah has chosen for us.” - Imam al Ghazali

May Allah keep us firm in faith, patience in making du'a and always have good thoughts for Him. Ameen.

*“Verily, with every hardship  
comes ease”  
{As Syarh: 6}*

CONCLUSION: THE LIFE  
CHANGING IMPACT OF  
TALKING TO ALLAH



## Life After Always Talking to Allah SWT

Even before I wrote this book, I have been conducting sharing sessions regarding du'a. I have been sharing a lot about du'a on my social media platforms and I have been getting a lot of feedbacks of people sharing how they apply the same thing - talking to Allah and how their lives changed.

As for me, my life has changed only for great things, SubhanAllah. It is really difficult to describe it with words because the feeling that I have is so beautiful, I almost cannot get the right words to explain how beautiful that relationship is.

Every single time I make du'a, when I talk to Allah SWT, I can only imagine this life is only getting better and better because I have Allah SWT. Even during the times when I was so down and I questioned myself, "Why am I being tested like this?", I would always find answers and courage through talking to Allah SWT.

That moment of talking to Allah SWT is really empowering. I have been doing things that is unimaginable. I have never imagined myself doing things that I am doing now, if it is not for Allah SWT. I am very

confident to say for every challenge that I face, I continue to seek Allah SWT and continue to ask help from Allah SWT.

My life has changed so much. I practically make du'a for everything. You know how crazy it is because some people find it so funny, and some people find it so silly to be making du'a for everything in life. I have never felt that way. I am so confident with it that I always tell a lot of people, "There is nothing in this life that you cannot achieve because you have Allah".

You can go through anything when you have Allah SWT. I say that with a lot of confidence because I have personally gone through all these experiences. And it was beautiful, subhanallah.

I cannot imagine a day passes by not making du'a. I

think it is going to be very difficult and it is going to be very suffocating not talking to Allah SWT. It has been a routine, it has been a thing that I consistently do and I hope that Allah SWT continues giving me inspirations to make du'a.

May Allah also give the same inspiration to everyone reading this book; that Allah make our life in such a way that we only rely to Him. That we cling to Him, and that we are seeking no one else except for Allah SWT.

If you have never tried, I hope this book has given you an inspiration to start that relationship with Allah SWT. As a person who went through a lot, and coming from a family with not much Islamic background from the very beginning, my challenges in learning the deen was not like those religious people. I learnt through a lot of seeking

who is Allah SWT and how do I build my relationship with Him. Once I found it, I could feel the sweetness of it. I could feel that beautiful feeling that is so hard to describe but one who truly experiences it, she would never want to go back to her old lifestyle.

If this is the kind of life that we are going to have in Jannah, which is million times better, then I really look forward to the day that I will be next to Allah SWT and having my home next to Him, insyaallahu Taala.

I hope that Allah continues to bless us with the rizq to make du'a towards him, InsyaAllahu Taala.

## Why It Is Important to Talk to Allah

So we are going to discuss about why is it important to make du'a, to talk to Allah SWT. Talking to Allah SWT, making du'a – it is a real work; it is not hard work but it is a real work. When you sit down and think about what are the things that you want to make du'a that is a struggle that you want to celebrate within yourself and you want to acknowledge that; even to the things that you want to ask

from Allah SWT. It is Allah who gives you the inspiration and make it a successful journey for you.

Understand that du'a is not just a thing that you ask from Allah SWT. Talking to Allah SWT, making du'a is building such reliance to Allah SWT on a maximum level.

A lot of the time when we talk about du'a, people are very sceptical. People do not want to talk about worldly things because they think, "How is it okay that I am asking Allah for a phone?".

So people can only relate du'a for something that is for the hereafter. That is only ukhrawi. Actually, du'a is not about abandoning your real world. Du'a is not abandoning the real work that we are doing in this world.

Du'a is something that we ask Allah SWT, something

that we converse to Allah SWT. As we are moving towards the direction of the du'a that we are asking for, that is where our efforts are revealed. The effort that we make to achieve what are the things that we make du'a for.

That is a gift from Allah SWT. A gift that Allah SWT blesses us with, for us to be able to move in the direction of the du'a that we make. So, do not observe du'a as something that you do nonchalantly and off you go to bed; or you do not work for at all; or you just stay in the mosque, hold the tasbeeh and read the Quran and pray for the whole day there. No.

Du'a is something that you do and you move towards the direction. It is okay for you to ask for material things, for worldly things because Allah SWT created this world for us to live in, and to be able to live in this world, we

need the help of Allah SWT. We need money, we need food, we need clothings, we need to sustain our life. So we ask Allah SWT to help us with all these.

Talking to Allah is also a form of you having tawakkal. You make your effort and you leave it to Allah SWT. Talking to Allah SWT is also an effort that you have to acknowledge and then you leave it in Allah SWT. You have tawakkal to Allah SWT.

What we should do is to put in our best effort in constructing or curating our du'a. Put our best effort in achieving towards the direction of the du'a that we make and have complete tawakkul in Allah SWT, having faith that He will answer our du'a. He will answer our du'a and He will make it easy for us.

Understand that du'a is not magic. Like I mentioned

before, Allah SWT is not your genie in a bottle. He is not somewhat like a magic guy who just appears and grants you whatever that you ask Him for. Also, sitting in one place and making du'a quietly there, not moving towards the direction of your du'a - that is also not sunnah.

It is Islam and it is sunnah for you to seek knowledge on what are the things that you want to ask from Allah SWT. You find a strategy to work towards your du'a that you are asking for. You acknowledge the purpose or the things that you really want to achieve, and these are all sunnah.

These are what Islam celebrates. Islam does not like people who are lazy, who do not know what they want. Allah SWT loves people who learn, who seek knowledge, who find strategies, who know that whatever du'a they

make, whatever conversations that they talk to Allah, take real effort. It takes real time for it to work and it takes a lot of work to make it happen.

Do not say that du'a is just a thing that you ask and it comes falling down from the sky. I hope that you understand that this life is not just sitting down, not doing anything and then just waiting for Allah to knock on your door and give everything that you ask for.

It is all about challenges, strives, and struggles to keep on asking and at the same time, we go out and try to get whatever that we wish for.

This shows Islam is equal and we are balanced. We do not just make du'a and do nothing. It goes together with your physical motion; your intellectual; your spiritual. They all come together. So you must understand that it is

not enough by just having only spiritual effort. It has to come together - spiritual and your physical efforts.

Inshaallahu Taala, as you are building this du'a habit, you will understand and you will see that the more du'a you make, the more effort has to come out. You do not just wait and sit down until your du'a is answered.

We ask Allah SWT to not make us give up in the du'a that we ask for and not to give up in building our relation with Allah SWT.

## How To Create A Du'a List

### SPECIAL SECTION

I want to share with you how I do my du'a list because so many of you have asked for it. You might have read on a different way of making a du'a or maybe you might have different ways of curating your du'a. What I am sharing is my way and please bear in mind that this should not be the only right way to do it. If you have a different understanding from me and you find my way of making du'a is slightly difficult for you to follow, it is fine. Do not

worry. We are here to celebrate differences and we want to celebrate the differences that Allah SWT created amongst us all.

As a person, I like to write down my du'a because I enjoy the process of writing them down. I like to be very focused in making my du'a list. I do not want to just go into my du'a moment with Allah SWT when I do not know what I am asking for, or what actually I am telling Allah SWT. There are some of the du'as that I do not write it down. They are just something that I talk to Him.

So for something that is more serious, for example du'a for my parents, du'a for my workloads, du'a for my career; these are all the ones that I will write down specifically. I have some tips that I want to share with you.

I like to curate my du'a by writing them down. If you

are a notebook collector like me, you can just use any notebook that you have and start writing down your du'a.

How can you write the du'as down? First, you need to list out the main points on what this du'a is all about. If it is going to be about your parents, write about your parents that you want to make du'a for such as their health, their inner peace, and then probably their rizq or anything that you hope for your parents.

Another example, let's say a du'a for yourself. What are the things that you want to ask Allah SWT? You probably want to ask Allah SWT for forgiveness and you want to ask Allah SWT for your hereafter. Write down the main points first. Get into what you want to branch out from the main point.

After you have written down the main points that is



when you elaborate your du'a. Write them down properly. For example if you are asking Allah SWT for rizq, write it down too. "O' Allah ya Razzaq, the One who provides, the One who gives rizq, the One who gives sustenance, every single month this is how much I make." List out where your salary goes to, for example; for your children, for your insurance, for your car, for your house, for billing, for sadaqah, for zakat and others. Write them down and do the elaborations.

I also paste pictures in my du'a book and it somehow looks like a goal board but I call it my 'Dream Du'a' board. I paste on pictures, things that I really want, things that I look forward to achieve in the whole year. If you do not want your board to be for the whole year you can change to a month or two months, in one week and so on. It is up to you, truly up to you. I like putting the pictures because

it shows a very clear view of what I really want to ask from Allah SWT.

Last but not least, I like to keep my du'as in such a way that I file them, compile them in a journal form, and keep it as a diary. Just so that I can reread them again.

It always gives me goosebumps whenever I reread my du'a list because it really reminds me of how beautiful Allah SWT is and how He is so much Ar Rahman and Ar Rahim. Allah SWT is so lovely, He constantly listens and He constantly grants and blesses me with a lot of beautiful things in this life. Alhamdulillah.

I hope this method or way of making du'a works for you. If it did not, you may find your own pace with it, you may find your own creative ways of it and we ask Allah SWT to help us and inspire us to make du'a to Him and

ask only from Him alone.

## My List of Favorite Du'a

Favourite du'a everyday:

### **1. Seek refuge from anxiety**

*O Allah, I seek refuge in You from anxiety and sorrow, from incapacity and laziness, from cowardice and miserliness, from being burdened by debt and from being overpowered by men.*

## **2. Seek refuge from istikharah**

*O Allah, verily, I seek the good with Your knowledge, and I seek the strength with Your power and I seek from Your mighty favour, for certainly You have power whereas I do not have any power. And You know and I do not know, and You have knowledge of the unseen. O Allah, in Your knowledge if this matter (for which the Istikharah is sought) is good for me in relation to me my religion, my livelihood, and the end of my matter then decree it for me, make it easy for me and then grant me blessings in it. And in Your knowledge if this matter (for which the Istikharah is sought) is bad for me in relation to my religion, my livelihood, and the end of my matter then turn it away from me and turn me away from it, and decree for me good wherever it be and make me be*

*pleased with it.*

## **3. All praises is for Allah**

*There is no true deity except Allah, the Ever Forbearing, the Generous One, glorified is Allah and blessed is Allah, the Lord of the magnificent Throne and all praise is for Allah, Lord of the worlds.*

## **4. Glory is to You**

*There is none worthy of worship but You, glory is to You. Surely, I was among the wrongdoers.*

## **5. Only complain to Allah**

*I only complain of my suffering and my grief to Allah.*

## **6. Forgive me and have mercy on me**

*O Allah, forgive me and have mercy on me and grant me wellbeing and provide for me.*

## **7. Allah is sufficient**

*Allah (Alone) is Sufficient for us, and He is the Best Disposer of affairs (for us)*

## **8. I have wronged my soul**

*O Allah! I have wronged my soul very much*

*(oppressed myself), and none forgives the sins but You; so please bestow Your Forgiveness upon me. No doubt, You are the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.*

## **9. Well-being in this world and hereafter**

*O Allah, I ask you for well-being in this world and the Next. O Allah, I ask you for forgiveness and well-being in my deen and in this world and in my family and my property. O Allah, conceal my faults and calm my fears. O Allah, give me protection in front of me and behind me, on my right and my left and above me. I seek refuge by Your might from being taken from below me.*

## **10. Ask for steadfastness**

*O Allah, I ask You for steadfastness in all my affairs and determination in following the right path, I ask You to make me thankful for Your blessings and to make me worship You in the best way. I ask You for a sound heart and a truthful tongue. I ask You for the best of what You know and I seek refuge in You from the worst of what You know and I seek Your forgiveness for what You know.*

## TTA Template

1. Today, I am feeling...

2. Alhamdulillah's moments:

4. A reminder for myself:

3. What matters/ Improment I want to do better for the next few days:

5. O' Allah, my Lord...

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**THE AUTHOR** – Ayesha Syahira, an accountancy graduate but eventually found love in spreading dakwah and pursue her dreams to become the next Yasmin Mogahed Malaysia version. She later received numerous invitations from universities and youth events to share on her experience, her hijrah story to inspire more youngsters. Alongside, she continues to study devoted herself becoming student of knowledge, she enrolled for

diploma Islamic studies and currently in the midst of finishing her tajweed learning as she aims to teach tajweed and the Quran recitation. Her tagged Quran that she always carries around has always been the talk of the town. She is always being asked about her Quran that she later start her Quran tag workshop in 2017. The Quran tag was another major success for her, and she was offered for her own Quran Tag program in 2018 on Astro Oasis and Naura channel, ever since then, she was known as the #qurantaggirl. It then brought to the publication of her first 'baby', her book titled 'Being A Quran Tag Girl'. And this is her second book that continues to talk about building a relationship with our Creator, and it is titled, "Talk To Allah: Finding Comfort By Making Du'a To Him". She can be contacted via email [ayeshashares@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshashares@gmail.com) or her Instagram and Facebook account @ayeshasyahira and Ayesha Shares.